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THE

NAVAL, MILITARY,

AND

PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS'

AMANUENSIS,

MEDICUS ET CHIRURGICUS:

OR, A

Practical Treatise on Fevers, and all those diseases which most frequently occur in practice with the mode of cure.

LIKEWISE ON

AMPUTATION, GUN-SHOT WOUNDS,

TRISMUS, SCALDS, &c.

WITH NEW AND SUCCESSFUL METHODS OF TREATING

Mortification, of Amputating at the Shoulder Joint, and of curing Femoral Fractures.

By RALPH CUMING, M. D. R. N.

Medical Superintendent of His Majesty's Naval Hospital, Antigua.

" Quære fugam morbi, vis recte vivere quis non ?

London :

Printed by W. Clowes, 20, Villiers' Street.

For MATHEWS and LEIGH, 18, Strand

1806.

1876

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LIBRARY

DEDICATION.

To Dr. Harness, the Medical Member of the Transport and Sick and Wounded Board. To Dr. Maton, Physician Extraordinary to Her Majesty. To Drs. Baird and Weir, the Inspectors of Naval Hospitals, &c. To the different Branches of the Profession in both Services. To the Professors, Practitioners, and Students of Medicine, this Work is most respectfully inscribed, by

their most obedient,

and very humble Servant,

RALPH CUMING.

PREFACE.

MY intention in publishing this work will appear in the clearest light to the most superficial observer, when he finds comprehended in an octavo volume, a history of such diseases as are most frequently the objects of the Physician's or Surgeon's care. In exhibiting them in this concise and concentrated point of view, I have in order to make them both instructive and comprehensive, endeavoured to divest them of all that foreign heterogeneous matter, which makes medical reading so dry and irksome, and is attended with the most pernicious consequences, in as much as it so loads and oppresses the memory, as to exclude the impressions which plain facts and useful knowledge, deduced from experience and practice, would inevitably make.* It is evident that the generality of authors when they undertake to write a volume on a single subject, must become notorious plagiarists, or bestow so little of what every one is so fond of, the original, by interlarding their work with copious quotations, that the tenue textum of their own exertions, may with few exceptions be compressed within a narrow compass. The advantage of being in possession of a small book, wherein is set forth the most approved and most successful plan of cure, without deviating from the straight course, into the devious paths of theoretical disquisition and wild conjecture, must be incalculable both to the private and

* "Omne supervacuum pleno de pectore manat." HORAT.

public practitioner. The former can seldom command sufficient time to peruse the legendary lore of the ancients, and the latter finds it extremely inconvenient, and often impracticable, to *lug about* with him the systematic writings of yore, and the no less operose and laboured productions of the present day.

In the prosecution of this work I have not slavishly subscribed to the dogmas of any author, however high he may stand in the estimation of those, who through fear, want of confidence, or excessive modesty, have never dared to differ in opinion with their book instructors: or let the cause be what it may, it is evident that whole centuries have rolled over our heads without making those efforts for the advancement of medical knowledge, which have so laudably and nobly been made and crowned with the greatest success, by the lovers of the different sciences. Though the knowledge of medicine in a general point of view, cannot by reason of its more subtile nature, be reduced to the same certainty with mathematics, which chiefly relate to visible and tangible objects; yet in many of the walks of medicine, its professors are perfectly illuminated by the torch of science; and as we have so many and great inducements to cultivate medical knowledge, emanating from principles of philanthropy, and from a desire of becoming good and useful members of society; every one should contribute his mite. And lastly, we have the most cogent reasons from that part of sacred writ wherein our Saviour introduces the parable respecting the good Samaritan, who with the

temper and true spirit of a Christian, poured oil and wine into the wounds of a fellow creature in distress; closing his beautiful allegory by this impressive and concise, though comprehensive command, Abi tu et fac similiter.

It is my wish that this volume may form an appendage to the portable library of practitioners in the public service, and that it may be honored with the perusal of the younger branches of the profession, who intend to devote some portion of their life to the service of their King and Country; which service will afford them an extensive field for observation, and enable them, if commonly attentive, to treasure up knowledge originating from observation and circumstances, which private practitioners are in a great measure excluded from; by reason of their not having it in their power to be so watchful and constantly attentive to every feature of diseases, through their various stages, which are so peculiarly modified, from climate and constitution, that Proteus-like, they are continually changing their appearances; as well as from a variety of other causes which are irrelevant to my present subject.

War, that scourge of nations! is a season which loudly calls upon the different members of our profession, who volunteer their services, to unite the various branches of it so perfectly, that they may be considered its ornaments, and should in some degree, or I would say as far as possible, endeavour to deserve the title of a walking dictionary of arts and sciences; a title which has been contemptuously bestowed upon many in the

public service, whose over-bearing hauteur, super-arrogant deportment, and tyrannical conduct, have, instead of obtaining them that respect which they vainly and exclusively thought themselves entitled to, only tended to sink them into the most unfathomable abyss of scorn and derision.

This phillipic is aimed at a set of men who jealous of the acquirements of those officers that are superior in point of intellectual attainments, though perhaps much inferior in rank, have so often deprived them of those marks of respect which they were every way deserving of, and entitled to. Then let Qui palmam meruit ipse ferat, be held in remembrance. I have not in offering this work to the public, like many cotemporary authors, wrote upon subjects of which I have been perfectly ignorant, save from the ipse dixit of others; no, far otherwise, the best part of my life has been spent in the service of my King and Country, and some years in private practice; and though my performance may be much inferior to what I could wish it to be, yet I trust some useful lessons may be derived from my practical observations, and particularly in the treatment of Sphacelus, in which complaint, under the blessing of Providence, I consider myself the discoverer of a sovereign remedy, which has already been published for the sake of giving it all that publicity, which its importance and usefulness demanded.

Mortification, which has slain its thousands and tens of thousands, and the bare name of which is calculated to inspire one with terror, may now be viewed with a

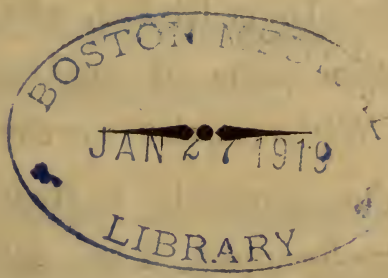
cool and collected look; being in possession of a remedy which disarms it of all its horrors, and renders innocuous its lethiferous poison.

I wish to observe that when from the obstinacy of different diseases, I have ventured out of the beaten track of treatment; the success attending the means employed will best bespeak their propriety: in all of which cases I have elucidated the subject, by giving a faithful, though concise narration of their leading features and most important phenomena: without which I should not have been justified in bringing them before the eye of the discerning, liberal, and enlightened members of the profession; the award of whose judgment, could alone affect the author, by exciting either a sense of mental pain or pleasure. And however desirous I may be of obtaining the latter, I have not the vanity to suppose that the following work is free from imperfection. Though *amor sui* may have had some influence on my mind, yet a nobler motive, that of rendering this essay useful to my fellow labourers in the vineyard of medicine had its due weight.

Whether I have or have not succeeded in my endeavours, must be left to the decision of those, whose province it is to criticise, and give an impartial statement to the public; before whose awful tribunal every author must appear.

October 2, 1806.

ON FEVERS.



FEBRIS CONTINUA, a disease so named from its running on through a series of days, and even weeks, without any distinct or marked exacerbation, remission, or intermission; which has been subdivided into Synocha, Synochus, and Typhus. The first denoting a purely inflammatory fever, the second one of a mixed nature between Synocha and Typhus, the third has been denominated Jail, Ship, or Hospital Fever, and has been further divided into Typhus petechialis, Typhus mitior, Typhus gravior, or petechial, nervous, and putrid fever. A fever which is endemic in the tropical

and western hemisphere, has been termed Typhus icterodes, which I think may be more aptly named Febris occidentalis, and which has, as far as I am capable of judging been confined to the West-India Islands, and the southern and western parts of the United States of America. With respect to the different species of Typhus agreeably to their arrangement in Cullen's Synopsis, I am fully of opinion, that they are not by any means fevers possessing different properties, or originating from a variety of sources, which stamps them with some peculiar and identical marks whereby they may be always ascertained to belong to this or that species, from a single coup d'œil or glance of the eye. No, they are certainly only different modifications of the same disease, which assumes such manifold and anomalous appearances, the natural consequences resulting from age, sex, temperament, and climate. The Pestis or Plague, I suppose would not be improperly named Typhus

maligna, which is the most fatal and virulent fever we have ever heard of, τυφος signifying stupor from which the word Typhus is derived, is very expressive of the nature of this disease in which coma, pervigilium, and delirium are such prominent features.

The remote or exciting cause of Typhus most frequently has its origin from filth and poverty, want of clothes, a moist cold and unwholesome state of the atmosphere, the depressing passions, grief and fear as well as excessive venery, may be considered as exciting causes, an atmosphere highly charged with human effluvia, contagion from fomites, and the effluvium from an infected person who has been long ill, and when a putrid diathesis of the system takes place, may be reckoned amongst the most potent causes of this fever. Animal and vegetable substances in a state of putrefaction have produced fever.

What has been denominated the proximate cause of fever, may I conceive, be considered as the disease itself, for this cause has not, nor do I believe it can be, so defined, as to make it appear that it does really exist. The generality of fevers that have come under my care in European climates and northern latitudes, and particularly those which I have met with in the navy, have originated from cold and inattention, or want of clothing, when ships are crowded, and men lie upon the decks for want of beds, or when they are supplied with beds but have not a sufficient covering, and when they have had a cold upon them for some weeks, without reporting themselves sick, they are frequently afflicted with Typhus accompanied with Pneumonia, so that their cases are frequently so very complicated as to require more than common acumen and skill in their treatment. And I must here, though it may appear rather *outré* observe, that I have known excellent effects produced

from digitalis when pneumonic symptons were distressing, and after conquering pneumonia the fever has run its course and been cured by the ordinary means.

The primary symptoms are languor, lassitude, prostration of strength, pain and disagreeable sensation in the performance of voluntary motions, a sense of chilliness when the body is hot, sometimes attended with rigors, nausea, and loathing of food, dulness of the eyes, pains of the head and loins, a vultus demissus or dejected countenance, furred tongue, quick pulse, dry skin, thirst, &c.

The secondary symptoms are coma, delirium, pervigilium, black and parched tongue, profuse sweats, quick and small pulse, loathing every thing in the shape of food, picking at the bed cloths, supposed to arise from a suffusion of the retina, occasioning muscæ volitantes which the

patient endeavours to catch; deafness, this last symptoms has been considered favourable.

The third, final, and often fatal set of symptoms, are a tremulous pulse, and tongue, discoverable on desiring the patient to put out the latter, petechiæ vibices, hemorrhage, involuntary discharge of urine and fæces, an intolerable and peculiar fætor, somewhat resembling that which issues from a sphacelated part, I have often been sensible of this typhoid stench, even in the first stage of the disease.

There is now great danger from infection, and the physician and nurses may esteem themselves happy, when they can avail themselves of the comfort arising from the pious psalmist's exclamation:

"Thou shalt not be afraid for the Pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noon-day."

Psalm 91. ver. 5. & 6.

Methodus medendi.—The lancet must never be unsheathed in cases of Typhus, the disease termed Synocha very rarely occurs, and the practitioner must not suffer himself to be deceived by that perturbation of the system which denotes sthenic or phlogistic, diathesis, much must be left it is true to his own judgment, and his prognosis should be formed from making himself thoroughly acquainted with the exciting causes of his patient's illness, his habits of life, and every minute circumstance that may either directly or indirectly contribute towards the elucidation of the case. If the frequency of the pulse is between 90 and 120, the patient young and athletic venesection will be absolutely requisite; but let it be remembered that a period of debility will ensue, after every violent complaint, which ought to operate as a check on that desire which is so often manifested to carry the depleting mania to destructive lengths. When the pulse vibrates and is between 120 and 130, and especially if the patient has been

some time ill, such a pulse will be invariably found to depend on asthenic movement or debility. I am of opinion that cold affusions of water and exposure to a cold atmosphere will greatly supersede the necessity of bleeding, and abstract the super-abundant heat which is undoubtedly the first thing to be attended to.

Hence the benefit resulting from exposure to cold in the small pox, which remedy is equally proper in all inflammatory diseases, and which has of late been had recourse to by the most enlightened members of the profession. I purpose to enter more largely into this interesting subject, when opportunity serves. At the commencement of Typhus, I consider emetics to be extremely salutary, and I have no doubt of their having been the means of arresting fever in limine. But when the complaint has existed some time, I am doubtful of their propriety, particularly when the stomach is much debilitated, and incapable of carrying on the process

of digestion, loathing the sight of victuals, and vomiting every thing as soon as received; this is truly a distressing and an alarming symptom, which may proceed from sympathy with the head, which is always more or less affected. I have known in several instances, vomiting removed by the acidum vitriolicum, combined with aq. menthæ pip. when the saline mixture in its effervescing state, has had no visible effect, a warm cataplasm applied to the stomach, with laudanum, pulverized camphor, and any kind of essential oil has frequently had good effects. When every other remedy has failed, blistering has often cured. "Cessatio ægritudinis cute excitata"—Darwin's explanation of the manner in which this is effected, is not sufficiently plain for me to understand it. I am ready to confess that his direct and reverse sympathies and associations are so expuisitely and nicely modifyed, as to distress and disconcert the force of my intellectual powers.

I would explain it in a more plain, familiar, and I trust less doubtful way, in observing that this indication is fulfilled by the application of a stimulus sufficiently potent to overcome the diseased action of the part affected, from the impression which it makes on the mental faculty, which exerts all its attention on the present excitement, on which account former sensations or concatenated associations from minor or even different stimulation, are in part or utterly forgotten. Does not this in some measure account for the effect of blisters and rubefacientia in nervous fevers, and plead strongly in their favor? When the primæ viæ have been cleansed, in incipient Typhus, which is often effected by an antimonial emetic, but in case it should not empty the bowels, a calomel purge is preferable to any other; I have used the pulv. antimonialis in the proportion of three grains with half a grain of opium every three or four hours with success, until diaphoresis has been produced and kept up for some time; but when

it disagrees with the stomach, it should be discontinued, and some other sudorific must be substituted, as the Pulv. Ipeca. comp. or aq. ammonia acetata. Great attention must be paid to cleanliness, the patient's hands, face and breast should often be washed with warm water, his hair should be combed, and his bed and body linen frequently shifted, his mouth and fauces are to be washed and gargled with lemon juice and sugar; lemonade, tea, or toast and water should be given very frequently, all excrementious matters should be immediately removed, and the apartment should be well ventilated, the atmosphere must be often changed, and in winter fires should be used; the patient is to be as much as possible preserved from the well meant but injurious assiduities of his friends. In fine, every species of irritation, such as a strong light, conversation and noise, must be carefully avoided. Such is the treatment which will in a few days very often cut short a disease, which when neglected in the first instance,

runs on for many weeks, or sometimes proves fatal in a short time. When the skin becomes moist, pulse regular, and other symptoms of convalescence take place, the decoct. cinchonæ, acidulated with acid vitriol will complete the cure. The diet during the illness, provided the stomach will bear it, should consist of animal soups or beef tea, when these are rejected, panada or sago with port wine may be given, with an occasional draught of ale or porter, until the stomach will bear the more durable stimuli of soups, which must be changed for solid meat; *gradatim*, and former habits of life are to be entered into, until which the cure cannot be considered as perfect.

When this disease assumes a more *grave* and threatening aspect, from violent febrile action, where the tongue is parched and foul, pulse remarkably quick, skin hot and dry the dolor capitis violent, dashing buckets of cold water over the naked body, sluicing the head first, is

attended with the happiest consequences: this should be frequently repeated until the increased temperature is reduced, and as often as this is done, the patient should be put to bed, after which he bursts out into a profuse perspiration, and experiences immediate relief; but when these violent symptoms are suffered to have their full swing, the poor sufferer soon becomes exhausted, and sinks into all the horrors of this disease, such as coma, delirium, pervigilium, &c. When all that remaineth to be done in this torpid and half-dead state, is to have recourse to that tribe of medicines denominated the diffusible stimuli, which are opium, volatile alkali, musk, æther wine and brandy: these too, are often found ineffectual. And after they have had a most patient and impartial trial, I have repeatedly known the disease subdued by mercurial inunctions, and never knew them fail, when once their action could be excited, which when timely applied, need never be despaired of. I do aver that I never lost a patient after

having used them. Therefore I consider mercury a *sine quâ non which performs wonders!* As the head is more affected than any other part, our attention should be particularly directed to it, and cold applications of vinegar, which may occasionally be mixed with water, should be frequently used, they have the power of subduing pain, and restoring lost energy to the brain; when there was any objection to shaving the head, I have ordered wet handkerchiefs to be applied round the head and over the forehead and temples, to be renewed as often as they became warm. Opiates are beneficial, and blisters between the shoulders. Profuse sweats are very common in this disease, and are apt to deceive the young practitioner, who looks upon them not unfrequently as favorable omens, when alas! they are only indicative of extreme debility, and what is strange, the fever still remains: in the incipient stages of Typhus, or when what is commonly called a cold, is beginning to degenerate into this insidious complaint,

(many instances of which are daily occurring) the sudorifics already mentioned often do good, but now to persist in their use would be vile practice, the patient should be thinly covered with bed-clothes, wine, generous port or madeira should be given, with decoct. cinch. I believe I should not err, were I roundly to assert, that bark in substance should never be given in this case. I never knew it taken in substance where there was great debility, without the very worst of consequences; it increases the fever and nausea by its irritation, and instead of strengthening the organs of digestion, completely ruins them, producing vomition, and a train of fatal symptoms; therefore I am persuaded that those men who have so strenuously recommended it, have not profited by observation, or have attributed that derangement which it invariably produces to the effects of the disease, never once dreaming that this indigestible ligneous matter, could by its *mild mechanical* action on a highly irritable

and delicate nervous membrane, be productive of the smallest uneasiness.

When symptoms of putrescence occur, the remedies enumerated above are to be administered, wines of the first quality are to be given ad libitum, and as large a quantity of lemon juice and sugar as the patient can be prevailed upon to take. But it must be remembered, that these remedies are not to be entirely depended on, the nutrientia or durable stimuli, such as strong animal jellies, must be had recourse to, without which recovery can never take place. In colliquative diarrhœa, opium has hitherto been considered our *sheet anchor;* but when this fails, are we to remain at ease, and suppose that the patient must be left to his fate? no, far otherwise, I once had a case of dysenteria, when every thing was done that I could possibly devise, without effect, which to my great astonishment, was completely cured by mercurial inunctions, after opium and the whole tribe of

astringents had failed. This was a case in which typhus degenerated into dysentery, and which I shall mention more fully when treating of that disease.

The Febris Occidentalis, or (as it is commonly called) Yellow Fever, as far as I am capable of judging from the experience which I have had in the treatment of it, may be considered as the worst and most violent species of Typhus, requiring the same remedies, but a more prompt and expeditious application of them. Calomel is an excellent medicine in this disease, and strong calomel purgatives when timely administered have the happiest effects. Vomiting except at the first onset, should (I think) never be attempted, for it frequently happens that the irritability of the stomach is so violent, that the complaint is ushered in by vomiting, which continues until death puts a period to the patient's sufferings.

When this fever originates from intemperance and the patient is of a full habit, and has been accustomed to enjoy a high state of health and vigour, and especially on a sudden transition from a cold to a tropical clime, bleeding will be of service, which I believe should not be repeated without the most urgent necessity, as sthenic diseases are soon converted into those which are denominated asthenic; the head suffers greatly in this complaint, therefore the refrigerating plan should be enforced, and the temperature of the body be reduced as expeditiously as possible,* I am persuaded that wrapping the patient up in a sheet dipped in vinegar, would be of essential service and that this operation should be repeated until the vascular action is subdued. I am of opinion that the Tr. Digitalis given in pretty large doses until the pulse became affected would answer a good purpose.

* A medical friend of mine lately returned from the West Indies, has tried the plan above recommended, and found it answer extremely well; and porter containing a great deal of fixed air is excellent for the vomiting.

One of my medical friends, when this fever was prevalent, informed me that he impregnated himself with mercury, which he thinks has the power of preventing the disease: others have observed when they were able to produce ptyalism by rubbing in, that these patients generally recovered. Hence it will appear that those people who possess a sound and vigorous constitution on their first entrèe into these regions, should be recommended to loose blood as a prophylaxis. While I was in the West Indies, being of a thin spare habit and finding myself greatly debilitated from the stimulus of heat, I endeavoured to avoid every thing that had any tendency to increase the circulation, and seldom took more than three glasses of wine after dinner, which I conceived assisted digestion, and every morning before breakfast, I took a glass of cool Imperial, a beverage consisting of cream of Tartar, lemon juice and sugar, made by pouring boiling water on these ingredients, which acted as an asperient and refrigerant.

The bowels should always be particularly attended to, as costiveness may be considered as an exciting cause of this fatal disease.

Many of our officers who are fond of the epithet, *bon vivant*, and are extremely improvident and careless respecting their health, live more intemperately in the torrid than the frigid zone; and drink their bottle and sometimes two every day, are frequently attacked in such an alarming manner, that a few hours put an end to their existence, and dreadful to relate they die raving mad, and close their *earthly* career with horrid imprecations. And in the delirium of their midnight orgies, it is usual for them to exhort each other to take large potations, observing that there is nothing like keeping the *liver* afloat! *O Juvenis juvenis quæ te dementia cæpit!*

As more is to be done by prophylactic than curative means, it behoves me to point out in

addition to what I have already observed, such a kind of conduct as appears to me to be the most effectual in warding off the attacks of this destructive malady. I have therefore to observe, that, as caloric or the principle of heat is the most universal and powerful stimulus throughout all nature, every effort should be directed to prevent its baneful influence on the body, by avoiding exposure to the rays of the sun, violent exercise, passion and repletion. As the natural heat of the climate is such as does greatly accelerate the pulse, indulging in spirituous and vinous potation, cannot be too much deprecated. A person who has been in the habit of drinking his pint of wine every day in a temperate climate, will often find half that quantity give him a pain of the head, attended with a throbbing from the increased action of the carotid and vertebral arteries, whenever these symptoms obtain, they should always be the signal to desist. And every exertion should be most cautiously abstained from, until these

symptoms of derangement have quite subsided. To those characters who have lived long in the country, and are consequently seasoned from habit, these observations are unnecessary, for no set of men, live more luxuriously than many of our West India planters. The ladies in this country, indulge themselves with a nap after dinner which I think is very conducive to health, and as they are more temperate in all respects than men they are consequently less subject to fevers.—

I shall now beg leave to lay before my readers a paper of mine, extracted from the Medical and Physical Journal, as a proof of the solidity of my assertions respecting mercurial inunctions in Typhus.

On the beneficial effects resulting from mercurial inunctions in Typhus, illustrated by the case of a soldier in the 21st regiment of dragoons at Romsey.

In the statement of this case, it shall not be so much my business to enter into the minutiæ of detail, as to give you the outlines of the patient's symptoms and my practice; for in general the monotonous recital of a diary is extremely dry and irksome. On the 19th of May I was desired to visit Benson, who I found in a state of pyrexia, accompanied with dysentery; his dejections were frequent and bloody, and his countenance remarkably sallow, I prescribed gr. x. Pulv. Ipec. comp. 3tia. quaque hora sumend, but finding the opium contained in this medicine insufficient to procure him repose, he took Tinct. opii. gts. 40 hora decubitûs. In the morning of the 20th, I found him rather better; he had been less disturbed during the night, than he had been for some time. It is necessary to observe that he had been long subject to the complaint, and that now it might properly be denominated chronic dysentery. These medicines were continued and with the happiest effects in as much as related to the alvine dis-

charge which began to assume a natural appearance without the smallest mixture of blood; though there was not any remission of fever which from the first belonged to the typhoid type, his pulse being often weak and tremulous, tongue nearly covered with a brown fur, the sensorium greatly affected from the state of amentia which I always found him to labour under. On the 21st. I applied a blister between his shoulders which roused him a little, and on the 22d I prescribed the Volatile Alkali with Tinct. Lavend. comp. and a bolus at bedtime, e. Pulv. Ipecac. comp. gr. x. These remedies were continued without any apparent benefit until the 28th. The Corona Capitis had been shaved and cold applications of vinegar and water were constantly used, but did not operate very powerfully in restoring lost energy, yet I am persuaded they were useful. I also had the patient taken out of bed, and tried the effect of cold affusions, which I believe would have been attended with considerable benefit,

if they had been persevered in; but he was so circumstanced in point of lodging, as to render this plan extremely inconvenient. I therefore had recourse to mercurial inunctions, and by way of exciting their effects more speedily, administered calomel gr. vi. pulv. antimon. gr. vi. opii. gr. ii. cons. rosæ. q. s. ft. boli. no. iii. capt. j. ter de die.

These remedies were continued until the 6th of June, before their action on the system became evident, that is to say, prior to the mouth being affected, or any degree of ptyalism produced, though a surprising amendment was observable, the secretions were set to work, he had for two or three nights been bathed in perspiration, his tongue became moist, and the digestive faculties of the stomach were again exerted; hitherto he had loathed every thing offered to him, save toast and water, rice, and rice milk, port wine, &c. and these things were not often relished; but now he expressed a wish

for animal food, and was allowed beef, mutton, or veal soup. The mercurial applications were discontinued, and the acidum vitriol dilut. with tinct. lavend. com. was given during the day. Many may suppose that some more powerful tonic, such as the decoct. cinchonæ, would have been preferable, but experience has taught me, that the recovery of men in similar circumstances has been often retarded by bracing up the system too suddenly. He took at this period near a pint of port wine every day, and a tumbler or two of mild ale, which he also had previous and subsequent to the mercurial course. His convalescence was sufficiently rapid to authorize me to conclude that it was quite unnecessary to alter his treatment, The troop marched on the 13th of June, and three or four days prior to this time, his wine was gradually diminished, and his allowance of ale augmented.

The good effects of the mercury in this case were strikingly displayed; the fever with every

concomitant, and untoward symptom, after the dysenteric complaint vanished, continued without intermission, and death seemed already brandishing his dart over his devoted victim, until the paralized organs were roused from their lethiferous lethargy, by the stimulus of this potent medicine, which has long been highly extolled in the cure of fevers iucident to tropical climes. Then, as there is reason to imagine that almost all fevers are governed by the same laws, though differently modified according to constitution or country, it is highly probable that a more general adoption of the use of this remedy in private practice, would be productive of the best effects, and considered a most useful auxiliary in the treatment of complaints, that not unfrequently baffle all human skill.

When opportunity offers, it is my intention to transmit you an account of the great and inestimable advantages to be derived

from the liberal use of tinct. digitalis in cases of pneumonia; when carrying bleeding to such lengths as is generally done, frequently undermines the constitution, and produces dropsies, with other evils of no less magnitude than those which it was designed to cure; for that practice, surely, can never be too much decried, which removes one disease to make way for another, more lingering, and equally fatal. June 15th, 1804.

In another paper on Scrofula, I subjoined the following postcript:

I wish to observe, that I have since joining this ship, experienced farther proofs of the efficacy of mercurial inunctions, in cutting short and speedily curing Typhus fever; after giving wine, opium, volatile alkali, and other diffusible stimuli the most patient and fair trial.

One of my patients took umbrage at what he

conceived a very novel treatment, and observed with an air of great gravity, that he was not *poxed!* but the salutary effects of the remedy soon convinced him that it was possessed of more virtue than he was at first willing to give it credit for.

And those medical gentlemen who are not contented with that degree of perfection which the medical art has already attained to, will do well to have recourse to a medicine, which may truly be considered a sheet anchor when used with discretion and judgment. May 31st, 1805.

GENERAL REMARKS ON FEVERS.

BROWN's Elements of Medicine as a work, take it all in all, is a performance which stands unrivalled, his theory of the manner in which life is supported is truly excellent, and the whole work exhibits the most irrefragable criterion of a towering genius. He has without doubt stripped medicine of that party-coloured garb with which she was patched up and clad by the chimerical ideas of his predecessors, and has decorated her with the chaste robe of reason, and given her a footing on scientific ground, and thereby has laid the foundation for a superb and elegant superstructure. But as the most finished productions of a finite being, must naturally be im-

perfect there is always some scope left for the exertions of others, hence a difference of opinion on *certain points* remaineth to be discussed.

Brown observes that in cases of direct debility, there is an accumulation of excitability, which I shall consider as the principium vitæ, for the loss of excitability according to Brown is the extinction of life, therefore, I am of opinion, that whatever either directly or indirectly produces debility, does in the same ratio destroy the excitability of Brown, which I have named principium vitæ : this point I think I have proved in a few words. Let me ask what accumulation we have in nervous fever, it cannot be excitability, for if this *je ne sais quoi* were so abundant either in direct or indirect debility, excitement when properly applied would never fail to produce the equilibrium which constitutes health, but that this is not the case experience fully proves.

Therefore there cannot possibly be any other accumulation, than that of debility, which is increased with a vengeance in Typhus, and frequently so powerfully as to destroy the principium vitæ. Man is an imitative being, and I am of opinion that the ingenious Darwin has borrowed many of his ideas from Brown. What is Darwin's sensorial power, but Brown's excitability, decked off with a gayer plumage? Which seems to me, as will appear from what I have already said to be the chimerical production of an exuberant imagination. The general principles of Brown's doctrine are self-evident and incontrovertible, yet there are great difficulties to be encountered in the application of the remedies to the existing circumstances of every disease. The first and most material thing needful is the acquisition of that knowledge, which will enable us to abstract or apply a due proportion of excitantia, without overshooting the mark, or endangering the existence of the patient.

To this grand desideratum he has certainly been inattentive: therefore I propose, as far as I am able, to elucidate this part of my subject, by dividing it into two propositions. First, by shewing in what manner stimuli are conducive to the restoration of health in asthenic diseases. Secondly, in demonstrating by what means we may attain to a knowledge of the proper application of them.

Then in describing the manner in which stimuli act in the restoration of health in diseases of debility, I have to observe, that they are only indirect means, though direct and primary indications; and when their action is beneficial (which as I shall endeavour to prove is not always the case) they give a temporary strength to the stomach and nervous system, thereby enabling the former, to carry on the digestive process, and the latter to assist the flagging, muscular and glandular actions, in assimilating nutriment for the whole body, which has been

debilitated from disease or excessive excitement. Daily experience fully evinces the validity of my sentiments. Let me ask what man ever saw a patient recover from Typhus or any other asthenic complaint, without the faculty of digestion was first restored, which when once effected, convalescence invariably keeps pace with the newly acquired strength of the stomach? the truth of this opinion I defy any one to confute. Hence the necessity of attention to every stomachic movement. And as this organ is the primum mobile of the system, whatever tends to disconcert it, nauseate, irritate, or render it torpid and inactive, should be most religiously avoided. Bark in substance generally produces the first named effects, and an undue proportion of other stimuli the last.

Secondly, by what means we may attain to a knowledge of the proper application of stimuli. If the excitement be such as to accelerate the

circulation without enabling the stomach to carry on the digestive process, they will always do harm. If the pulse subsequent to their administration, be lessened in point of frequency, and gives a more equable, firm, and full sensation to the touch, they generally do good, more especially should the desire for food return, which indicates an amelioration of the tone and digestive powers of the stomach: but should their action be confined chiefly, or exclusively to the vascular system, without affecting the stomach in the way already pointed out, they will in the end destroy the patient, by wearing out in a manner proportionate to the extent of their use, and strength of the patient, the remaining principium vitæ. I hold this to be sound reasoning, and sufficiently explanatory of the matter of fact, which I conceive will be most clearly proved by the experience of the close observer, who has been in the habit of visiting patients not once in the course of 24 hours, but often enough to ascer-

tain with precision the effects of the remedies employed: herein consists that invaluable advantage, which medical officers in the public service, and especially those serving in the navy, enjoy over private practitioners. Lastly, disease often produces such a state of torpor in the primæ viæ that the most potent stimuli have no visible effect; otherwise how are we to account for the immense quantity of calomel which has been given in fevers? When this is the case, the materia medica affords no remedy that can be put in competition with mercurial ointment, which should be rubbed in, manû durâ et liberâ. The effects of this medicine, as I have already observed, are wonderful! It sets all the secretions to work, renovates and revivifies the powers which lay almost dormant and extinct, under the mouldering clay of our earthly tabernacles. And as sure as it acts on the system, so sure the stomach resumes its office, and the whole machine is again put in motion.

The opinions of my medical brethren I know are various respecting the modus operandi of medicines, and the phenomena which appear during the course of diseases; and this I also know, the more enlightened a professional man is, the more cautious he will be in suffering his judgment to be biassed by the opinion of any particular or even famous author, whose celebrity is often over-rated from possessing the power of a luxuriant association of ideas, so forcibly, as to dazzle the mind's eye of his reader, in such a manner as to make black appear white. The surest way of obtaining useful knowledge, is to attend to practical points, and such theory or reasoning deduced from these, as does not require the phosphorus of philosophy to render it intelligible.

As the Typhus and Febris Occidentalis are in the latter stages of these diseases, infectious, and probably are always so, more or less, when they arise from contagion; it may not be amiss to point out such means as experience proves

to be the most effectual preventatives: yet I must observe, that I do not think there is much danger to be apprehended on the score of infection in the early stages, when they originate from cold, intemperance, or any other exciting cause, which I believe more frequently produce these complaints than contagion. Whenever there is fætor which I have compared to the effluvium issuing from a sphacelated part, or when the points of the fingers after feeling the pulse, are affected with an unpleasant stinging kind of sensation, there can be no doubt concerning infection. In the latter case, oiling the finger, covering it with a piece of bladder and washing it immediately with soap and water, and afterwards with vinegar will be very useful. When there is much fætor, visits should not be protracted, the saliva should not be swallowed, and respiration should be checked and performed slowly, a pinch of snuff may be taken previously to going in, provided it does not excite sneezing, and the nose

should be blown after leaving the sick, the breath of the patient is to be carefully shunned, and if a current of air can be commanded, the windward position should always be chosen, when conversing with the patient desire him to look the contrary way, if a proper distance cannot be observed, Many a person has imprudently lost his life by catching the breath of the infected. The nitrous and oxygenated muriatic gases, should be frequently made use of, for my part I have the highest opinion of them, yet there are many who think they have no specific effect in destroying contagion, and attribute their power solely to the exclusion and change of air, which they say elastic vapours produce, by expelling that which is contaminated; and this, they observe can be more effectually, and better done by keeping up a current through the apartment. It surely is more safe to employ both methods, and this I would always recommend until those opiniated gentlemen, can

prove, that these gases are (as they wish to make it appear) of non-effect. I have witnessed their powerful effects in correcting fætor in the surgical wards of a Naval Hospital, subsequent to a great Naval action; and not only there, but also in fever wards: they possess the property of refreshing the patients, as well as that of subduing contagion. The patient's linen should be often changed, and the fæces and urine immediately removed. In fine cleanliness and ventilation cannot be too strictly inculcated. I have known men landed from ships and kept in the open air in tents, recover faster, and in a greater proportion than in hospitals. With respect to critical days I have little to say, only, that my closest attention could never discover a well marked crisis, nor do I suppose that the ancients knew much more about them than we do, when the necessary allowances are made for superstition, and prejudice resulting from education.

FEBRIS INTERMITTENS; OR AGUE.

THE Ague is a fever of a peculiar nature, differing from others in its causes and effects, it is evidently occasioned by marsh miasma, or the putrid stench issuing from stagnant water, and is strongly characterized by three distinct stages, the cold, the hot, and sweating; after which, the patient enjoys a perfect intermission or interval of ease, until the next period of attack, which generally occurs every 24, 48, or 72 hours. Hence the first has been termed Quotidian, the second Tertian, and the 3d Quartan: other distinctions have been made which are too nice to be of any practical utility.

This disease was much more prevalent formerly than it is at present, which is owing chiefly to agricultural improvements, from the draining of marshes and clearing of woods, &c. Hence the invitation of the poet.*

The poor and laborious part of mankind are the principal sufferers from intermittents, who are obliged to work in hedges and ditches, and who are poorly clothed and badly fed, though the rich are by no means exempt from them, for whatever tends to destroy stamina, whether it be night watching, excessive venery, hard drinking, or any other species of intemperance, a predisposition to the disease will occur. The poor I am fully persuaded, might frequently be cured without medical assistance, by a timely amelioration of their condition, respecting their

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* "Qare agite, o proprios generatim discite cultus,
Agricolæ, fructusque feros mollite colendo;
Neu segnes jaceant terræ: juvat Ismara Baccho
Conserere, atque oleâ magnum vestire Taburnum."

VIRGIL.

diet. A plentiful allowance of strong beef soup or gravies, with a liberal quantity of good ale or generous wine would in general supersede the necessity of swallowing such huge doses of bark as are almost always given in this disease. Glue or animal jelly has been lately recommended by the French for the cure of intermittents, and by Monsieur Seguin in particular, who supposes it to possess a febrifuge property, an idea which I cannot coincide with: its modus operandi may be explained in a more rational and satisfactory manner from the supposition that the complaint is subdued by a new acquisition of stamina generated by this highly animalized and nutritious substance. It is much to be regretted that the portable soup allowed by government for the navy should not be more frequently used, I suppose seamen are prejudiced against it from its glue-like appearance. Dr. Fowler's remedy, the tasteless ague drop, a preparation of arsenic has been highly extolled for the speedy cure which

it produces. I never used it, nor do I think that ever I shall, because I am of opinion that it may always be cured without a remedy which has in so many instances been fraught with the most dangerous consequences. Dr. Clubb of Ipswich (a friend of mine) informed me the other day that he was once desired to visit several farmers and their servants, who had become dropsical after curing themselves of ague by the said arsenical preparation.

I have lately read of people who were affected with Paralysis from the same cause, therefore when evils of such magnitude accrue from this remedy, it is time to substitute some other medicine. And there is one derived also from the mineral kingdom, which I have long and most successfully used in the cure of intermittents, viz. the zincum vitriolatum or white vitriol which I have known to cure when bark and other remedies have been unavailing: indeed with me it never yet failed!

My mode of administering this medicine is in the following manner: after the primæ viæ have been thoroughly cleansed by means of an antimonial emetic, I commence by giving my patient two, three or four grains in the course of the day, agreeably to the age or strength of constitution, during the intervals of the fit, in the following manner. ℞. pulveris zinci vitriolati gr. Conservæ rosæ. Olei menthæ p. fiant boli no. Æger capiat i. 3tia vel 4ta. quâque horâ ut opus erit et augeatur dosis gr. i. indies. I never had occasion to give more than five grains in 24 hours, though much more may be taken without producing either nausea or vomition, provided a glass of wine, or any proper diluent be drank, after it is given in this form. In the Medical Journal I published a paper on this subject, and quoted the case of a female whose legs had become ædematous, her countenance sallow and bloated, and was reduced to such a cachetic state, that she was falling an easy prey to dropsy. Soon after this paper was

published, Mr. Cooke, in London, published an account in the same popular work, of his having cured two dreadful cases by adopting the plan which I had recommended: therefore this cheap and safe remedy, from the uninterrupted success which has invariably attended its use, in my hands as well as in those of others, stands very high in my estimation, and is I think haud ulli inferior. The common and popular medicine bark has certainly had its virtues greatly over-rated in the cure of this and other fevers, I have often seen it productive of incalculable mischief. Some authors have the effrontery to tell you that pounds of this drug have been given to their patients in remitting and other fevers, but for my part I never knew ounces given without deranging the whole system, from the sickness and irritation which it occasioned. Nor can I conceive how it can be otherwise. The human stomach is not like that of the ostrich, it will not either digest *wood* or *iron*. I have known the recovery of patients

considerably retarded by giving the decoction too freely, and have known relapses take place in consequence of it. Then how much more danger is there to be apprehended from it, when taken in *substance*, where it seldom fails to clog up the stomach in such a manner, as to destroy all appetite; for if want of appetite in fevers depend upon a deficiency of gastric juice, surely such a remedy will entirely frustrate the intention of the physician, who with astonishment beholds his patient getting daily worse, without knowing that his own remedy is killing him or greatly protracting the cure. The Tinc. Cinchonæ comp. is an elegant medicine, and the decoctum is an excellent one, when used with discretion. One would really imagine that some of our medical brethren were studying the art of tanning, from their propensity to convert the stomach into leather.

Though intermittents are chiefly confined to the shore, yet we have repeated instances of

their occurrence on board of ships ; and their origin may be attributed to the decomposition of wood in the hold, and the effluvium from putrid water, which is denominated bilge water, this last evil may always be remedied by letting fresh water in, and pumping out the ship frequently.

When people have lived long in an aguish country, and have suffered much from the complaint, visceral obstructions are often met with, the spleen, and sometimes liver, are both affected ; when the latter viscus feels painful and enlarged, the countenance is sallow and swarthy, and it frequently happens that jaundice accompanies this affection. After these symptoms obtain, a calomel purge or two should be administered and followed up by a course of mercury, taking care to keep up the vis vitæ by a nutritious diet, after which the cure will be effected by such tonics as are best suited to the nature of the case. We have

been told by several authors that vernal intermittents often require bleeding, but as this disease depends upon an asthenic diathesis I suppose that this indication may with the greatest propriety be omitted. When local inflammation takes place, topical applications will effect a cure. Every fit of this fever as I have already observed is marked by three distinct stages, the cold, the hot, and sweating, which leave the patient in a complete state of apyrexia, until the next period of attack. The Quotidian commences for the most part in the morning, the Tertian at noon, and the Quartan in the evening. The cold stage is ushered in by rigor, pains of the head and loins, difficult respiration accompanied with nausea and often a vomiting of bilious matter, the features are contracted, the pulse small and frequent.

As these symptoms subside the second stage begins with a sense of heat, the pulse is full

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and firm, the tongue white, and head very painful, at length a profuse sweat breaks out constituting the third stage, which continues for some hours and relieves the patient from every distressing symptom, when sleep comes to his assistance and afterwards leaves him in a state of languor and debility. Now is the time for throwing in plenty of nourishment, and such tonics as are found to be most effectual. The cuprum ammoniacum is said to have cured when the bark has failed, but as this is a very deleterious preparation I should never think of using it when the mild and innoxious preparation of Zinc already recommended will (as far as my experience goes) always effect a cure. Should the patient have been much debilitated a change of air should be recommended. I remember Dr. Gregory of Edinburgh telling a story of three gentlemen, who I think went into an aguish country on a shooting party, one of them was a water drinker, the others took their wine as usual who both escaped;

but the former, very soon had reason to repent of his abstemiousness, having from that cause been attacked with ague. A late writer says he has experienced the happiest effects from using the antimonium tartarisatum in small doses so as to produce nausea, previously to the accession of the cold stage. This nauseating process to me, seems a harsh and unpleasant method. A large dose of opium given at this period, by increasing the action of the heart and arteries, will cut short, or even prevent this stage; if taken during the cold stage, it will shorten its duration, and give more time for the administration of remedies, in the interval of each paroxysm.

People who have once suffered from this complaint are more liable to it, than those who have never had it: they therefore cannot be too careful in avoiding intemperance and excess of every kind, they should live upon a diet consisting chiefly of animal food. If their

business should call them out early in the morning, they ought never to go from home with an empty stomach. Their breakfast, if they object to meat and ale, should be more substantial than tea, with which eggs or ham should be eat.

OPHTHALMIA OR INFLAMMATION OF THE EYE.

THE Inflammation of the Eye is divided into two species, namely Ophthalmia Membranarum, and Ophthalmia Tarsi ; the former affecting the membranes of the eye, sometimes only externally, at other times internally as well as externally. The latter is confined to the tarsus or edge of the palpebra or eye lids, but also often connected with a membranous affection, and is sometimes the cause of this last-named disease and sometimes the effect.

The most frequent inflammation, which is

that of the Tunica conjunctiva is attended with turgescence of the vessels of this part, which appear so greatly suffused and so numerous that there is reason to suspect an error loci: and if there be not a new generation of vessels which some have imagined, those which formerly only carried a colourless fluid are now freighted with red globules, from a vis a tergo, that stretches them far beyond their natural dimensions, occasioning irritation, and consequently inflammation. The symptoms are very distressing, and are characterized by impatience of light, a sensation of sand or some gritty body rolling about between the ball of the eye and eye lid, a flow of tears by this irritation stimulating the lachrymal gland into action, which is sometimes so hot and acrid as to excoriate the cheek.

The causes of this complaint are cold, excess of light, inebriation, the suppression of customary evacuation, wet feet, intense applica-

tion of the eyes, either in writing, reading, drawing, or sewing, &c.

In the cure, the indiscriminate use of saturnine and other astringents cannot be too much deprecated: many people I am persuaded have lost their sight from the premature application of these too popular remedies, if such they may be named. The primary indications of removing the exciting cause, the subduction of heat or sthenic action are the chief things to which our attention should be directed: but I am sorry to say the reverse of this, is frequently the practice of many, who on the first attack of inflammation have recourse to irritating collyria, the vile and farraginous nostrums which have been handed down from masters to their apprentices, from generation to generation! It is a fact that does not admit of dispute, and which I have repeatedly witnessed that reducing the temperature of the part will always be attended with the happiest effects, and

when there is no general phlogistic diathesis the application of cold water if sufficiently persevered in, by frequently dashing it against the eyes, and after that applying linen rags folded six or seven times over well wetted with it, and renewing them as often as they become warm will invariably reduce the inflammation. I have accustomed myself by way of placebo to colour the water with the smallest quantity of aq. lithargyri acetata. When both eyes are affected two pieces of sponge adapted to the form of the eyes may be tacked to a fillet or ribband, and the aqua frigida applied through their medium, and when it is consumed by evaporation, more can be poured upon the sponge, which from its porous nature will suck up a larger quantity than linen. By this process we are enabled both to exclude light, and subdue the inflammation by the abstraction of heat. This practice will bear the keenest criticism, for it stands upon the firm basis of experience, and is supported by the light of reason and

natural philosophy. Whilst I was surgeon of His Majesty's ship Malabar many of the men when cruizing off the Dutch coast were affected with Ophthalmia epidemica, from the keen and cutting easterly winds which prevailed. The tunica adnata was much suffused and blood-shot and in many instances protruded beyond the tarsi yet the generality of them recovered in the course of four or five days by perseverance in the refrigerating plan, tute, celeriter et jucunde. Leeches will have a good effect, dividing the largest and most conspicuous vessels on the tunica adnata has been much recommended, when the system is generally deranged, calomel purgatives, and bleeding will be of service with the strict observance of the antiphlogistic regimen. All that thickening and opacity of the cornea which is so frequently occasioned by this disease might (I am persuaded) be easily obviated by a steady perseverance in the plan already recommended. When our troops were sent to expel the French

from Egypt, many of them were afflicted with the most dreadful Ophthalmia, which several medical men asserted to be infectious, and which they suppose was fully evinced, by some of these men subsequent to their landing in England, being placed in hospitals, where others were soon taken ill, of the same complaint; who had never previously, been affected with it.

When all sthenic diathesis is subdued by bleeding, purging, &c. and laxity and atony of the part exists with a remaining inflammatory appearance, a solution of zincum vitriolatum in the proportion of two or three grains to the ounce will by its moderate stimulus excite the action of the lymphatics, and restore tone and vigour to the eye. When the disease is confined to the tarsi, cold applications will always have an excellent effect, brandy diluted with water is often serviceable, the solution of sulphat of zinc may be also

tried. The unguentum hydragyri nitrati inserted on the point of a hair pencil is a good application, but it will be necessary to dilute it by adding a little fresh hog's lard. As this complaint is frequently scrofulous, the bark may be given, and sea bathing recommended.

CYNANCHE TONSILLARIS, OR INFLAMMATORY SORE THROAT.

THIS is a troublesome though by no means a dangerous illness, the whole fauces are affected, the uvula, velum pendulum palati, and tonsillæ are swelled, and so painful that deglutition becomes very difficult, the tonsillæ on inspection appear to be ulcerated, but this is seldom the case; there is an orifice or indentation on the lateral and centrical parts of these glands, which the inflammation renders more conspicuous now, than when they are free from disease. There is a sense of heat, and soreness in the throat, which appears frequently highly crimsoned.

The remote causes are chiefly cold externally applied, but going out of a warm room into a cold and frosty atmosphere will also produce it; wet feet often occasion this complaint.

It generally terminates by resolution, yet suppuration often takes place, the swelling is sometimes so great as to endanger suffocation; when this is the case, plunging the point of a lancet into the part which is most prominent and easy of access will be of service, if it should not evacuate any pus, the bleeding from the part will assist in reducing it, and for this purpose a scarificator has been invented, which should be used very freely. A blister applied to the external fauces from ear to ear is of infinite service, pediluvium and purging should also be had recourse to, and when the pulse is full and frequent, with a flushed face, indicating sthenic diathesis, the patient should be bled freely from a large orifice.

In all cases gargles should be used, the infusum rosæ, or a decoction of sage in vinegar sweetened with honey will answer very well. Mild attacks will be easily subdued by keeping up perspiration on the neck by means of wrapping it up with wool or flannel, which may be moistened with a little of the linimentum ammoniæ, with which the fauces should be well rubbed. Leeches, in cases where the swelling and inflammation run high will be very serviceable, not only in these cases, but in all topical inflammations. The throat is subject to a complaint which has been by the vulgar denominated the falling down of the palate, or almonds of the ears, when there is seldom any inflammation; and which seems to be occasioned by too great a determination of fluids to those parts, distending their cullular texture so much, as to cause the uvula to fall down into the pharynx, and produce a very disagreeable sensation, for which the most effectual remedy is a strong

gargle composed of Piper Indicum and vinegar, or what is called chilly vinegar. This is the best remedy which can be used by those who are habitually subject to this disease, and where there is generally a great laxity and want of tone in the parts. In the Cynanche Maligna this is an excellent medicine.—Cullen in his nosology has divided Cynanche into five different species, one has been already mentioned, the others are Maligna, Trachealis, Pharyngæa, Parotidæa. For the Maligna, a disease marked with symptoms of putrescency, which is highly infectious, and has been denominated Febris Scarlatina, Scarlatina Anginosa. Children and young people are most liable to it, though the aged and infirm are also frequently attacked. The throat is lined with white specks or sloughs, and on the third or fourth day after the attack, an efflorescence makes its appearance in different parts of the body, assuming sometimes the appearance of small pimples, but more frequently that of patches, after which a desqumation of

the cuticle occurs. In the cure, evacuations are to be guarded against, emetics in the beginning are often serviceable, when there is much swelling, blistering the throat will be necessary, the vegetable and mineral acids should be liberally administered. The oxygenated muriatic acid has been of great service, the Decoctum Cinchonæ and port wine are to be used according to the exigency of the case, and the Cayenne pepper gargle until the sloughs fall off, when decoct. hordei acidulated with acid vitriol, and made palatable with sugar will answer very well, the patient's strength is to be kept up with nourishing soups, provided the stomach does not reject them.

CYNANCHE TRACHEALIS; OR CROUP.

Cynanche Trachealis or Croup is a disease which is chiefly confined to childhood, though adults have now and then been affected with it. The late General Washington died it is said of this complaint, and the disciples of Dr. Rush are supposed to have accelerated the fatal catastrophe, by their San Gradonian practice.

The upper part of the trachea is the seat of this disorder, which is occasioned by inflammation, there is always cough and pyrexia attending it, the respiration is laborious, and accompanied with a wheezing from the obstruc-

tion which the air meets with, caused by the inflammation and effusion of mucus, obliterating the passage. The cough is hoarse and stridulous, somewhat resembling certain tones from a trumpet, there is a great struggle in endeavouring to disengage or expectorate the effused matter, and sometimes a membrane similar to the form of the inside of the trachea has been pulled out of the child's mouth, the pulse is frequent, and the little sufferer appears to endure the most agonizing torture, when suffocation often puts a period to its existence. For the cure, when we are called in at an early period, an antimonial emetic will be useful, should the inflammatory symptoms run high, the child ought to be kept a considerable time in a warm bath, bleeding with leeches, and blistering round the neck will be necessary. But when it is obstinate, and these remedies have not the wished-for effect, no time should be lost in impregnating the system with mercury, by rubbing in until the mouth becomes affected.

This practice may be objected to, from an idea that local remedies are more to be relied on in topical diseases, but surely after these have had a fair trial it is our bounden duty to have recourse to other means. The modus operandi of mercury may be thus explained, it sets all the secretions to work from the momentum which it imparts to the circulating medium of the blood, it also effects a change in its consistency by which means it is endued with the power of removing obstructions, and of increasing the exhalation or secretion upon every cellular and membranous part of the whole body, hence its action is directed to the trachea, and that false membrane which had been formed in it, and as it were glued to it, is at length separated, and either brought up whole, or piece meal, by the coughing and exertion of the child.

PNEUMONIA; OR INFLAMMATION OF THE LUNGS.

THIS is the generic term adopted by practitioners who have generally rejected the names Peripneumonia, Pleuritis. &c. as it is a difficult matter to define whether the pleura costalis, pleura pulmonalis, or substance of the lungs is affected, and if it could be discovered with the utmost precision, this knowledge would be of no real practical utility, as all sthenic diseases are to be treated in the same way.

As pneumonic inflammation is always attended with danger, the means employed in the cure must be prompt and decisive. For

the most part it is ushered in by pyrexia, though sometimes the skin and pulse are not materially affected. At other times the countenance is flushed, skin dry, and the pulse vibrates like a stretched chord, there is generally a cough with or without expectoration, there is a lancinating pain on inspiration darting sometimes in different directions, it is often fixed to one side, and now and then takes a direction between the sternum and back. Respiration is always difficult and is frequently more so on one side than the other, and the patient frequently cannot breathe in a decumbent position.

The most frequent cause of pneumonic inflammation is cold obstructing the perspiration, and producing a determination of blood to the lungs: loud singing conjoined with ebriety, and playing on wind instruments are also exciting causes. People of a robust and sanguine constitution are most liable to be attacked by

this disease, which is most prevalent in winter and spring. Our prognosis is formed from the circumstances attendant on the case, when the symptoms already enumerated run high, the termination is doubtful and danger great. This inflammation like all others, terminates, either by resolution, supporation, effusion into the cellular membrane of the lungs, or mortification. This last termination is, I believe a rare occurrence, and that of effusion is fatal, an instance of which I the other day witnessed when attending Dr. Packwood of the navy in conjunction with two other physicians. In this situation he insisted upon a repetition of phlebotomy, imagining that it would relieve the oppression which he complained of. Though death was inevitable, the bleeding certainly hastened his dissolution. This was an effusion of mucus into the bronchial vessels which he had not strength to expectorate, he pathetically observed, if he could breathe oxygen, he thought that he might recover. Dissections

prove that this species of effusion is that which most commonly occurs, though there is often an effusion of blood into the cellular membrane. Expectoration taking place in the early stage of the disease, is a favourable symptom, denoting resolution, which in a great measure precludes the necessity of carrying bleeding, to such extent as is often done. That plan of cure which I have most successfully adopted, and which I some time ago published in the Medical and Physical Journal, is as follows. I bleed according to the exigency of the case, not by repeated venesections; that is to say, a small quantity at a time, and often; but largely, in the first instance, and from a large orifice: if syncope be produced, so much the better, immediately after this, I evacuate the bowels by means of a saline purgative, and at the end of its operation, I give the Pulvis Salis Nitri in such doses, as will sit easily on the stomach, every two or three hours; if this medicine be given in barley water, a greater

quantity can be taken, than when it is administered in tea, water, or other thin menstrua. I at the same time introduce the tinct. digitalis purpureæ, giving 80 drops the first day, from 100 to 120 the second day, and increase it gradatim, until the pulse falls. However should I find on visiting my patient the second day, that the inflammatory symptoms are still prevalent, attended with dyspnæa or difficult respiration, I again have recourse to the lancet, and bleed pretty freely, after which a large blister is applied to that part which is most painful. When these steps have been taken, it will be seldom necessary to bleed any more. The action of the digitalis is to be kept up until the sthenic diathesis is complety subdued, and the patient should be laid in that posture which he finds most comfortable to himself.

By way of elucidating this subject I shall briefly relate a circumstance which lately oc-

curred. A delicate young woman who was suckling a stout healthy child, was seized, from exposure to cold wet weather, with Pneumonia, accompanied with symptoms, as alarming, as any that I ever witnessed; and whom I treated in the manner already described. I have no doubt but that the case would have terminated either in dropsy or fatally, had the depleting mode of cure been adopted to that extent, which it generally is, when the lancet is solely confided in: as it was, her feet became ædematous, but she was easily restored by a nourishing regimen.

It often happens that a profuse perspiration breaks out in an early stage of this disease which is always beneficial, and promotes resolution.* But this indication of cure must not be attempted by the alexipharmac practice, on the contrary the most strict antiphlogistic regimen must be observed, the patient is to be

* I have often experienced the happiest effects from the administration of tartarized antimony conjoined with nitre, pediluvium is serviceable.

covered very lightly with bed cloths, and what he drinks ought not to be new milk warm. Tea, barley water, or lemonade, and such like weak liquids, are the only things which the patient is to be allowed to subsist upon during the pyrexial state. When the dyspnæa and pain have abated and the cough continues to harrass the patient, opiates conjoined with digitalis will have a good effect and are absolutely requisite. I am of opinion that digitalis is a soporific, and that it qualifies or tempers the stimulant power of opium, and thereby renders its use less exceptionable whenever any doubt of its propriety may arise. I imagine in this stage, there is more danger to be apprehended from the cough exciting fresh inflammation than from the action of opium on the system. However it certainly ought never to be given until the inflammatory symptoms have nearly or altogether subsided. What has been observed by authors respecting the power which opium has in checking expectoration, and by this means retarding the cure, is in my

opinion quite fanciful. I suppose that the secretion of mucus is still going on, and that during the night (which is the best time for the administration of opium) the patient is less sensible of irritation from secretion into the bronchial vessels, which enables him to remain at ease, and without expectorating for many hours; and when he awakes he is again sensible of irritation, coughs, and from newly acquired vigour imparted by the refreshment of sleep, he is able in a short time to evacuate the whole of that which had been poured into the bronchiæ. That such is the case, I have not the smallest doubt from observations which I have often had an opportunity of making. Dr. Beddoes has said in a work of his published in 1801. "In pleurisy if any one "should be mad or wicked enough, to forego "the so certain resource of the lancet in favour "of the *sedative* virtue of digitalis *alone*, he "would I apprehend increase the disease, if "he confined himself to moderate doses." A

little farther on he says, " It is possible that " immense doses by rendering the period of " excitement evanescent might produce the " desired effect." He further observes that opium on the same principle may be sovereign in Pleurisy.

The reader will perceive that I do not trust entirely to digitalis and that I do not give it in *immense doses,* extremes of every kind cannot be too cautiously avoided. From what the Doctor has said it appears that he considers the effects of digitalis and opium are very similar, but his ideas and mine are at variance on this subject.

I imagine it operates chiefly on the nervous system, and is endued with the peculiar property of restraining morbid excitability, or in reducing the increased mobility of the vital principle to its proper level and healthy standard. How often the lancet has been and is still used

in pneumonic cases, is too well known to every practitioner, and who is there that has not witnessed the melancholy effects emanating from this mode of depletion? pining *atrophy!* lingering *dropsy!* and a variety of evils occurring so frequently as to render a particular account of them in this place quite unnecessary, occasioned entirely, by robbing the body of that pabulum, which is the sine quâ non of its existence.

As the human mind is ever liable to run into extremes outstripping the boundaries of calm and dispassionate reason, I wish to observe, that the high opinion I have formed of this medicine, is founded on the unerring test of experience, the guide and polar star of every science, and which is the only rational way by which we can hope to attain to any mode of improvement in physic, that in so many instances, is veiled by a mist, through which the brightest beams of human under-

standing cannot penetrate. There are men whose timidity prevents them from venturing out of the beaten track of their ancestors, it is not from *such*, that we are to expect improvements, particularly in physic; where so much remains to be done; for as a professor properly observes to his pupils (Dr. Gregory) your present instructions are only intended as a foundation on which you are to build. As if conscious of innumerable difficulties, which must ever remain insurmountable, should the mind not be suffered to soar beyond the narrow limits of scholastic dogmas.

De tuo ipsius studio, conjecturam ceperis,
An veritas, aut perfidia, hanc mentem gubernat.

I conclude this dissertation by a borrowed phrase reversed, mehercule digitalis sedat! In cases when depletion has been carried great lengths, and when the patient is sinking from debility and expectoration, the volatile alkali, conjoined with decoctum cinchonæ and the

aromatic confection, should be prescribed, together with rich beef tea and jellies. Raw eggs beat up with wine, sugar, and water, are very restorative. I had almost forgot to mention that I lately read of an instance of Hernia incarcerata being cured by digitalis.

HEPATATIS; OR INFLAMMATION OF THE LIVER.

THIS is an endemial disease to which Europeans are peculiarly subject in the eastern hemisphere, and it is worthy of remark, that bacchanalians and grog drinkers are most subject to the infliction of this *punishment!* It is divided into the acute and chronic species. The acute is characterized by increased vascular action and reddish high-coloured urine, there is pain in the right hypochondrium which is always increased on pressure, and is sometimes acute at other times dull, there is a dry cough generally attendant on this disease, there is also a pain on the top of the right shoulder and scapula arising from nervous sympathy and

communication, between the third, cervical and eighth pair of nerves, a hiccup and vomiting often occur.

The occasional causes are an undue impetus of the blood, producing congestion in this organ, and consequent derangement in its organization, the heat of tropical climates is of itself sufficient to have this effect, independent of additional stimuli from drinking and violent exercise, constipation of the bowels, &c. obstruction in the biliary ducts, either from an inspissation or thickening of the bile, or from gall stones rendering the ductus choledochus communis impervious. When the inflammation is considerable, there is an enlargement of the right hypochondrium, which feels tense and is elastic to the touch. The termination of this complaint is similar to others depending upon sthenic action but instead of Gangrene, Schirrus is most frequent. The cure should be commenced by plentiful bleeding and purging

with calomel and neutral salts, and as soon as the pyrexia, and urgent symptoms abate, mercurial inunctions must be resorted to, instead of rubbing the ointment on the part affected, a blister should be applied and the ointment rubbed on the legs and thighs. The refrigerating plan must be rigidly adhered to, the patient's drink must be cool and diluent. When suppuration takes place there is an adhesion formed to some neighbouring part, and the abscess either points externally or the matter is discharged by coughing, vomiting, or by the bowels. For the cure of Chronic Hepatitis mercury is the only remedy that can be relied upon.

ICTERUS; OR JAUNDICE.

IT is worthy of remark that I have cured the most obstinate species of Jaundice by mercury. Gall stones or concretions of bile, or too viscid a state of this fluid are exciting causes of Jaundice, therefore whatever medicine possesses the power of attenuating the bile and dissolving the biliary concretions will perform a cure. It may be asked how does mercury effect this? I have already observed that it alters the crasis of the blood, increases and thins the secretions, and by this means effects the solution of biliary calculi or by a vis a tergo from the distention of the vesica fellis overcomes the obstruction which caused the disease.

An emetic will often cure; the bowels should always be kept in a lax state. As Gastritis, Enteritis, Cystitis, Nephritis, &c. are all sthenic diseases, and are cured by depletion and a strict observance of the antiphlogistic regimen, I do not think it necessary to take more particular notice of them, than by thus naming them.

RHEUMATISMUS, RHEUMATISM.

THERE are two kinds of this disease, one is named the acute, the other chronic Rheumatism, The acute is a violent and painful disorder, affecting for the most part, those who are in the bloom of life, between the age of puberty and 35. Men are more frequently attacked than women, it is most prevalent in the spring and autumn, though I have known it occur in the winter on the coast of North America, after a vicissitude of weather or climate; a sudden transition from the West Indies to this northern region, frequently is the exciting cause. Sudden application of cold I believe is invariably the cause of the disease. Authors

tell us that the athletic, and those of a sanguine temperament are most commonly affected with it, but I do aver that I have more frequently seen men of a lax fibre and delicate constitution suffer from it. The symptoms are well defined, and peculiarly well marked, there is a considerable degree of pyrexia preceded by rigor, the pulse when the disease is violent, is full and vibrating, the tongue white and furred, thirst great, the large joints of the knees, elbows, hips, wrists and ancles, are chiefly affected; and the pain often changes its position, shooting from one joint to another, and which is always augmented in case of muscular action. There is generally an evening exacerbation, and the patient's sufferings are greatly increased during the night, which may often be occasioned by keeping him too warm.

When a joint has been some time affected with pain, it begins to swell and look red, and is accompanied with all the criteria of active

inflammation; after the swelling has continued two or three days, there is often a remission of pain, yet the part is now and then re-attacked with violence. The blood which is drawn, if from a large orifice, always has its surface cupped, from a superabundance of coagulable lymph floating on it. The urine is high coloured and without sediment; towards the termination of the disease there is a lateritious deposition.

The termination is by resolution, yet some rare instances of suppuration have been recorded. When the most urgent symptoms have been subdued, there is a stiffness felt in the parts affected, with pain on a change of weather, without any swelling; this is what constitutes arthrodynia, or the chronic species; and if the acute disease has been protracted, either from mal-treatment, or unusual violence of the complaint, the human machine will often become a walking barometer.

In the cure of this disease, which is highly inflammatory, the depleting system must be pursued, and the antiphlogistic regimen strictly adhered to; blood should be drawn from a large orifice, and in proportion to the urgency of the symptoms; the bowels should also be well cleansed by means of a saline purgative, and in order to prevent the system from being too much depauperated, when leeches can be obtained, they should be applied to the joints which are most affected, for local remedies in topical complaints generally supersede the ne-necessity of those which have a more extensive operation: it may be asked, Is not this a disease affecting the whole body? I answer, it is so, but in a measure depending on local irritation, and that, therefore, whatever tends to alleviate the pain of the joints, will in the same ratio, relieve the whole frame, which is diseased from an association of feeling, or sympathy. The diet should be farinaceous, and the drink diluent. Immediately after bleeding and purging,

I have been in the habit of giving the pulvis ipecacuanhæ compositus, which is an excellent remedy, not only in this, but in every other disease when we wish to promote diaphoresis, as the stimulant effect of the opium is so considerably counteracted by the other ingredients. From six to eight grains of this medicine may be given every four hours, and the dose must be regulated according to circumstances, after sthenic action has been overcome, by the remedies already recommended, the strength of the patient is to be restored by tonics and a nourishing diet, consisting chiefly of animal food.

A writer of great celebrity has recommended the cinchona, as a most excellent medicine, he begins with small doses subsequent to the first evacuations, and increases the quantity gradually ; this mode of cure is certainly very inconsistent with our ideas of the nature of this disease, yet I do not doubt the

veracity of the author. If the inflammatory symptoms originate in an asthenic diathesis, the propriety of such treatment cannot be at all questionable. Others have experienced the happiest effects from the refrigerating process, by wrapping the inflamed joints round with cold wet linen rags, I have had an opportunity of trying this plan myself, on the wrist and elbow joints, and do declare that the cure was considerably expedited by it, and the sufferings of the patient greatly alleviated, from a steady perseverance in renewing the cold, as often as circumstances required it. It is my intention the first time an opportunity offers, to try the digitalis, a medicine, which admits of more extensive application, and promises more success, in a variety of diseases, than many practitioners, who are ignorant of its virtues, are willing to give it credit for. A great degree of stiffness and inflexibility of the joints frequently are the consequences of this disease, to obviate and cure these inconve-

niencies, a flesh brush should be used, flannel ought to be worn next the person, and the linimentum ammoniæ should be well rubbed upon the parts, a tepid bath will be of service.

RHEUMATISMUS CHRONICUS.

IN the Chronic Disease a different mode of cure is to be adopted, evacuations of every kind must be avoided, though I am of opinion that keeping up a gentle diaphoresis is useful, the different preparations of guaiacum which are so generally in use, I believe are not very efficacious, friction is serviceable, and it is requisite to defend the body from the application of cold, by wearing flannel. Electricity has often been very useful. I have known mercury effect a cure in obstinate cases. Cold bathing has been recommended, but as this is a disease of debility, I should think that a warm bath would prove more efficacious.

THE LUMBAGO AND SCIATICA.

ARE complaints which we often meet with, the former is chiefly confined to the lumbar region, and the pain is increased when the part is put in motion. I have given the spt. terebinthinæ with success, and benefit has been derived from blistering, a large burgundy pitch plaster has also been attended with beneficial consequences.

The Sciatica is an excruciating pain, extending from the hip joint, along the course of the sciatic nerve. Stimulating embrocations consisting of æther, essential oils, and laudanum are sometimes very useful, blisters, electricity, and friction with flour of mustard may be tried.

PODAGRA, GOUT.

THE Gout has also been named Arthritis, from αρθρον a joint; but as it generally attacks the foot, Podagra, compounded of πους and αγρα is most expressive of this disease. It has been divided into four species, 1st. Podagra regularis. 2d. Podagra atonica. 3d. Podagra retrograda. 4th. Podagra vaga, or aberrans. An affection of the stomach generally precedes a fit of the Gout, such as heart burn, flatulency, and indisgestion, with other symptoms of Dyspepsia. Males are more subject to it than females, though the latter often inherit it, from their parents; it is the offspring of intemperance and debauchery, and as Dr. Gregory used to observe, a man who works for sixpence a day and lives on that

sum will never fall a victim to, what *I shall denominate* podagric excruciation. In cyder counties a greater proportion of paupers are subject to it, than in others where sour potation is not so common. The Gout is ushered in by a violent lancinating pain in the ball of the great toe, which soon tumefies and becomes red, being exquisitely sensible to the touch. When it is violent the foot and ankle become affected. The paroxysms sometimes come on suddenly, at other times they are preceded by the suppression of some excretion, cold applied to the feet, a sprained ankle, and often the slightest injury has produced a fit of the Gout. The fit frequently commences in the morning, before its attack, there is often a sense of rigor succeeded by pyrexia, through the day as well as night the pain increases, it sometimes remits the next evening when the part is considerably swelled and the patient enjoys some repose. The pain is often repeated for many days before it takes its leave

leave of the patient, and leaves a lameness behind proportionate to the severity of the attack. Paroxysms in the incipient state of this disease frequently have a lapse of two, three, or four years, recurring according to the habits of life, of the patient. Gout is a persevering and insidious foe, first attacking the outworks, afterwards making gradual advances to the citadel; nay it sometimes carries every thing before it by storm or *coup de main*, without going through the tedious and regular forms of a siege: it metamorphoses youth into decrepid old age, producing stiffness and painful rigidity of the various joints which are not unfrequently all attacked in their turns, and stiffened up with a calcarious deposition. Gout also generates calculous concretions in the kidnies. I have known a man who had long suffered from the gout, die, from a most excruciating nephritic affection. The sad consequences of this disease, are frequently handed down to the "third and

fourth generation." Its exciting causes are too evident to require a minute description, high living, wine, women, little exercise, and too much condiment, are great enemies to mankind; happy is the man whose wisdom preserves him in the moderate enjoyment of the good things of this life! In the cure, two indications are to be kept in view. The first is to shorten the paroxysm when once begun, and the second to prevent its recurrence.

The first indication is effected by the refrigerating and antiphlogistic plan of cure: if the patient have lived very freely, it will not be safe to effect a sudden change, however when high inflammatory symptoms are prevalent; his usual regimen should be lowered. I am far from thinking with the old physicians, that the patient is to be consigned to that consolation, which flannel and patience can give him! this is the sine quâ non, the summum

bonum of their practice : it certainly has in *many cases* no more claim on our attention, than that which is derived from its *simplicity !* but this simplicity is widely different from what constitutes elegant and successful practice. I am firmly of opinion that flannels and fleecy hosiery, by keeping up heat and excitement on the part have been productive of incalculable mischief, and that thousands have been tortured for months by this treatment, when a more rational mode of cure would have removed the complaint in a few days ! Dr. Kinglake has met with considerable opposition from some members of the profession, who have been startled by his nouvelle and bold practice of curing the Gout with aqua frigida : the treatment appears to me, to be both philosophical and rational, but it certainly ought to be tempered with judgment and prudence. I have had some opportunities of using it myself, and I firmly believe that the progress of the complaint was completely arrested by it,

and the patients restored to health, much sooner than they would otherwise have been. In very old subjects, who have been long and habitually afflicted, it will not be proper to follow up the refrigerating plan to such extent as is requisite in recent cases, when the constitution has not been much injured.

Instead of applying flannels in these cases, the usual covering will be sufficient; and if the patient have habituated himself to worsted stockings, cotton, or what may be still better, thread, will be the most proper, as producing less irritation on an inflamed part. Nevertheless the inflammation or temperature of the part may become so high as to authorize its exposure to the air, or action of aqua frigida, and during this process, a more liberal allowance of wine or other cordials must be granted than what the patient has accustomed himself to, previously to the cold application in order to counteract the effects of sympathy on

the stomach. All that has been said by authors (who bow with reverence and submission to the dogmatic opinions of men, who were eminent in their day, without availing themselves of those advantages, which their own geniuses, or improvements might have suggested) respecting retrocedent or misplaced Gout, and particularly that affection of the stomach, which is said to originate from repulsion as it is termed, when the disease has left the feet and attacked the stomach ; appears to me to be founded in error, as far as their theory goes, concerning morbific matter being generated in the habit of a gouty patient, and translated from one part to another. This phenomenon is more rationally explained by adverting to the law of sympathy, which is so visibly displayed in animal organization ; a faculty, coexistent with our creation, and the offspring of nervous association. What causes the clattering of the teeth ? What a watery *mouth* when delicious things present themselves to our long-

ing *eyes ?* To elucidate this subject I have a case in point which occurred very opportunely just at the time I was writing on this subject.

A young man of a swarthy aspect and scorbutic diathesis had an abscess on his ancle which was opened and dressed with emollient cataplasms, his habit was highly irritable, an erysipelatous inflammation took place, which ran so high as to threaten sphacelus ; as soon as this was perceived, linen rags wet with cold water and renewed as frequently as they became warm, were regularly and diligently applied. This treatment afforded (as is always the case) the greatest relief, but before the inflammation was subdued the patient was seized with a violent spasm in his stomach, which he had suffered very considerably from, for some time previously to his sending for relief, and which was speedily cured by giving him opium and warm spirit and water. The cold was still

continued, and in two or three days the temperature of the part was reduced to the healthy standard, and mortification prevented. Now I can assign no other cause for this spasm, than sympathy; which the diffusible stimuli easily overcame. Æther, opium, brandy, oleum menthæ piperitidis, and the volatile alkali should always be at hand, when the patient, whether he be young or old, is using aqua frigida.

I have had frequent conversations with people who have been cured of the gout in the feet from getting them wet, without experiencing the smallest inconvenience. Hence it will appear that I am an advocate for such applications as are possessed of the power of reducing the morbific accumulation of caloric in the part affected, which I would recommend to be done in a cautious manner, when the patient is old or infirm, and those who have suffered from Arthritis aberrans when the

disease is fixed in their feet, should be advised not to tamper with any external application, but even in such cases the part should not be kept too well covered, for heat certainly is a great stimulus, and whatever has a stimulating effect on parts already highly irritable, will inevitably debilitate the whole system, and lay the foundation for attacks on the most vital parts. In youth and in those who have attained to an advanced period of life when the constitution is good, the greatest relief will be obtained by the refrigerating process, and the complaint arrested in a few hours, which if left to patience and flannel, would have endured not unfrequently, for weeks, or even months : and left the patient so much enervated, as to render him obnoxious to its repeated assaults, from the slightest causes. During the application of cold which will be best effected by wet linen cloths the patient may be allowed his usual quantity of diffusible and durable stimuli, provided the cold possesses the power

of reducing the inflammation, nay should this be the case he may even take more, until the complaint be subdued, after which he must lead a new life, and proportion his stimuli to his corporeal stamina. I have remarked that fat, stout, and robust men suffer very little, from what would in a thin delicate frame, have produced the greatest derangement, and the most violent effects. In this, as well as in a variety of other diseases it is not possible to lay down rules which can invariably form the criteria of sound and successful practice for much must ever be left to the genius and discretion of the medical attendant. Otherwise from whence, would our greatest improvements, and most noble discoveries arise? Gout requires the strictest attention on the part of the physician as well as patient, and the former should be well remunerated; those who can afford it, would do well to have a medical person constantly with them. People who wish to avoid being afflict-

ed with this disease, as I have already observed, should proportion their stimuli to their stamina, and take a sufficient degree of exercise in the open air. The prophylactic means to be adopted by those who have been subject to it, are a gradual dereliction of the exciting causes, which are too well known to require a particular description. When the constitution has been much impaired, the aid of medecine will facilitate the cure, those denominated tonics such as cinchona, tinctura ferri muriati. Infusum gentianæ comp. qassia, &c. may be used either separately or in combination, agreeably to the ideas of the physician, and feelings of his patient. The diet when the stomach has been affected should be alkalescent, consisting chiefly of animal food; vegetables, and every thing possessing the property of acerbity, should be most carefully shunned. An old gentleman the other day was seized with Gastrodynia,

from indulging himself with a common sallad, composed of lettuce, subsequent to a recovery from a fit of the Gout, which he was occasionally affected with. His complaint was too severe to be cured, and he died a victim to his own imprudence !

" Si tibi deficiant medici, medici tibi fiant
" Hæc tria, mens læta requies moderata diæta.

ERYSIPELAS; OR ST. ANTHONY'S FIRE.

THE ERYSIPELAS has been supposed to depend upon a general affection of the system, shewing itself in the face and other parts of the frame, and had not this opinion been so much cherished, it is certain that the practice in numberless instances would have been much more successful, as I shall endeavour to prove. When it attacks the face it begins at one spot, which is affected with heat, redness, and often itching; the part begins to swell, and the swelling and inflammation frequently spread so, as to pervade the whole face, hairy scalp, and sometimes the neck. The eye lids are often so much swelled and puffed up as entirely

to shut up the eyes. Blisters of various sizes arise on different parts of the face, containing a limpid fluid, and towards the termination of the complaint, there is a total desquamation of the cuticle.

The Cutis vera, when the disease is protracted, becomes livid and gangrenous, proceeding to such lengths as to disfigure the face, and now and then to prove fatal: which termination would in all probability rarely, if ever occur, would practitioners only divest themselves of that partiality which they often have for the maxims of their predecessors. When the inflammation runs high, there is always a symtomatic fever proportionate to the extent of the disease, and irritability of the habit, inducing at times, coma, delirium, and other symptoms of sthenic diathesis.

I have attended several patients ill of this complaint, and the observations that I have

made, incline me to suppose, that the pyrexial symptoms may be considered as the effects and not the cause of it. During my studies at a celebrated medical school, the flour bag was the only application then in vogue for Erysipelas, from an idea that it was dangerous to employ refrigerants; medicines of this class are frequently termed repellents, and it would have been a happy circumstance for many patients, if their medical attendants had not been frightened out of their wits at the thought of this terrible name *repellent!* The famous Cullen, when treating on Erysipelas, seems to conceive that no other application save meal or flour is admissible, except when there is a sense of throbbing in the inflamed part indicating suppuration, yet I must dissent from such an opinion, though sanctioned by so great a man, in this instance; for if the refrigerant plan were resorted to in the early stages of the disease, suppuration would rarely happen. The Doctor does not speak in positive terms with respect

to the nature of this disease, that is to say, whether it be local or constitutional; yet he says he never knew a translation of the inflammation from the limbs to other parts; and when it happens, that the affection of the face is communicated to the brain, he supposes it to be entirely caused by the spreading of the inflammation. Does not this at once point out the necessity and propriety of having recourse to refrigerants, without leaving the work entirely to nature, and trusting to flour as the only local application. My practice in every bad case of Erysipelas has been invariably the following, which I shall endeavour to illustrate by annexing a case that occurred to me the other day. I was desired to visit the wife of a labouring man, whom I found with a shocking erysipelatous swelling in her face, her pulse became full and frequent, in fine, she was in a complete state of pyrexia. I immediately bled her, and ordered a cathartic with a refrigerant lotion composed of a weak solution of cerussa acetata,

desiring that her face might be kept constantly covered with wet linen rags, and renewed as often and as cold as possible. By this treatment, her face in less than 24 hours was free from inflammation, and her eyes which before were perfectly closed with the swelling, were now restored to their natural state. Hence it appears how extremely fallacious theories are, when unsupported by the unerring guide of experience: and I do not conceive that in 999 cases out of 1000, any of the dreadful consequences would occur which have so frequently been the concomitants of this disease, when treated agreeably to the dogmas of scholastic instruction. I am happy to find that I am not singular in my opinion respecting the advantages resulting from the refrigerant plan of treatment.

Mr. Robert Cooke, of London, who it appears has had considerable practice in Erysipelas, says in a paper of his, when speaking of flour,

"I am confident that this plan is by no means the best, for I do not recollect one case where the application of cold lotions, were early and properly applied, but it prevented suppuration and all its ill consequences, not only in the head and face, but the extremities; in the former I have used it very freely and repeatedly when the inflammation has run extremely high, both locally and constitutionally, and I never once found by repelling it, that either phrenitis, peripneumony, angina, or any unpleasant complaint followed; indeed to me the propriety of their application appears very obvious, upon the simple principle of checking that inflammation, which if allowed to go on, would probably extend to the brain, or some other important part, and in this way prove fatal, &c."

The Zona Ignea; or Erysipelatous Herpetic Eruption, styled Shingles, I have speedily cured in the manner which I have just now recommended. Some difference with respect

to evacuations must be observed in town and country practice, for the latter patients whose blood is highly oxygenated from the pure atmosphere which they inhale, will bear the lancet better, than those who are shut up within the smoaky precincts of a large and populous city.

HÆMOPTYSIS; OR A SPITTING AND COUGHING UP OF BLOOD FROM THE LUNGS.

THIS disease has been divided into five species: 1st. Hæmoptysis violenta, from some external violence. 2d. Hæmoptysis plethorica, from fulness of the vessels. 3d. Hæmoptysis phthisica, from ulceration. 4th. Hæmoptysis calculosa, from calculous matter in the lungs. 5th. Hæmoptysis vicaria, from the suppression of some customary evacuation. A little consideration will enable any one to form a correct opinion, whether the blood proceeds from the lungs, fauces, or stomach, that which is ejected from the lungs appears florid, frothy, and is only mixed at times with a little mucus or phlegm,

whereas that issuing from the stomach is of a dark grumous appearance, being for the most part mixed with the food that the patient has taken. When it comes from the fauces an inspection will clear the point up. In addition to the above criteria, it is necessary to remark that the blood when poured out into the bronchial vessels always occasions a certain sense of tickling or irritation, which excites coughing, the state of the parts prior to the hæmorrhage will throw some light on the subject. The species into which this disease has been divided are sufficiently explanatory of its causes, but I must observe, that the Hæmoptysis plethorica in my opinion, is not often met with; for when there is a determination, to, or a congestion of blood in the lungs which takes place in Pneumonia, we seldom, if ever, find an effusion occur, which in general takes place from laxity and debility of the part, from mal conformation, ulceration and accident. The doctrines of two great men, I mean Brown and

Cullen, are greatly at variance on the subject of Hæmorrhage both with regard to its cause and treatment. Dr. Brown's boldness in combating prejudice, and opinions built upon bad foundations can never be too much admired, but let us remember, that his zeal on some occasions might have carried him too far; I would therefore say Per mediam viam ite, quia tutissimam est. I am persuaded that the depleting plan of cure has been hitherto, too indiscriminately resorted to; the use of the lancet ought to be restricted, especially when the patient is not athletic, and when the pulse is not firm and hard indicating inflammatory action, the antiphlogistic means as far as they relate to rest and diet, should be strictly adhered to; for though it can be clearly ascertained that the bleeding has an asthenic origin it would be highly improper to load the stomach with solid food.

I have seldom had occasion to use the lan-

cet in the course of my practice, however cases will occasionally happen which require its use. The remedies which I have chiefly employed may be denominated sedantia et refrigerantia; of the latter, nitras potassæ or nitre, I have experienced good effects from; its dose is from 15 grains to half a drachm, when it is not well diluted it frequently excites nausea. I have often conjoined the digitalis with it, and think that this valuable medicine is calculated to be of great service in hæmorrhagies. The acidum vitriolicum well diluted may be given in large quantities, I have also used powdered alum by way of an astringent, giving a scruple or half a drachm every two or three hours, but the remedy which I place the greatest dependance on, is digitalis, either in tincture or powder combined with nitre, from eighty to one hundred drops of the tincture may be given in the course of a few hours without any risk, and the doses may be augmented according to circumstances, and I find that three or four

grains of it in powder, may be given the first twelve hours with perfect safety, in any complaint that I deem it needful to prescribe it for. In the summer season a firm mattress should be employed in preference to a feather bed, the patient should be very lightly covered with cloths, there should be a thorough ventilation, and the apartment ought to be cooled by the evaporation of vinegar or water, the shower bath I am persuaded will frequently be of great service. When the bowels are constipated a saline purgative may be administered. Many cases occur after violent bleedings that call aloud for the liberal use of wine, opium, and other stimulantia. When patients have been bleeding to death, the administration of the above remedies, by giving a fillip to expiring nature, and enabling the animal fibre to contract so as to close up the atonized orifices of the ruptured vessels, has restored many a valuable member to society. It may be asked, how can cold applied externally cure

hæmorrhage, when it has the power of constringing the surface and producing an internal congestion of blood? I reply, allowing congestion to take place, the effect is only of momentary duration, and that the tone and vigour imparted to the circular, musculo-vascular, and solid muscular fibres do more than counter-balance it. But I am apprehensive that cold affusions are dangerous when the strength is much exhausted, in such cases should they be deemed requisite as a dernier resource, a prior use of wine, opium, or other cordials will prove conductive to their success. I knew a surgeon who cured his wife of a violent and dangerous flooding, after abortion, by dashing buckets full of cold water upon her.

SCORBUTUS or SCURVY.

A GENUS of disease in the class cachexiæ and order impetigines of Cullen; defined "In regione frigida post victum putrescentem, salitum, ex animalibus confectum, deficiente simul materia vegetabili recente; asthenia; stomacace; in cute maculæ diversicolores, plerumque livescentes presertim ad pilorum radices."

OBSERVATIONS ON SCURVY.

This disease has committed great ravages on those who have been shut up in besieged places, and particularly on sailors during long voyages.

Fortunately this scourge has of late years

been little felt in the Royal Navy, though formerly it was no uncommon thing to send two or three hundred men on shore for the cure of this disease from one ship. But now owing to the representations of those officers who preside over the health of seamen, and the liberality of government, ever ready to make those useful and brave men as comfortable as possible, the navy is well supplied with lime juice and sugar, two excellent antiscorbutics, with a variety of other good things in the care of the surgeon, whose anxiety and knowledge to prevent, should not appear less evident, than his zeal for the good of the service, and skill in curing diseases, whensoever and wheresoever they may prevail. I have seen very few cases of Scurvy since the year 1794; at this period I belonged to Admiral Murray's squadron on the American station, and as we had long cruizes, and were not supplied with lemon juice, the crews of every ship were more or less affected. Having paid particular attention to the circumstances, symp

toms and phenomena, attending individual and particular cases, I can with confidence affirm that such men as either smoked or chewed tobacco, were the first attacked and last cured; indeed the disease was chiefly confined to them, and so well convinced of this was the Captain of the Cleopatra (the ship I served in) now Sir Alexander Ball, a most zealous, good, and excellent officer, who always paid the greatest attention to medical representations, that he ordered the issuing of this debilitating and destructive narcotic to be stopped. The slightest physiological knowledge will be sufficient to explain the reason why tobacco is a predisposing cause. Every one knows that it is a sialagogue, that it excites a great salival discharge from its stimulating effects on the glands appropriated for the secretion of that fluid, consequently the loss of it, which is intended by nature not to be spit out, but for the purpose of mastication and digestion, will be attended with debilitating effects, even to a man who is in the habit of

subsisting on good wholesome food, and such as is easy of digestion; then how can it fail to be productive of the greatest of evils, when men are obliged to live on salted meat, hard, and divested of the greatest part of its nourishment, and consequently requiring a greater proportion of saliva before it can be converted into nutriment; as well as the hard biscuit, which is the only bread procurable at sea, especially in our service. The French have wisely supplied their ships with ovens for the purpose of baking for the whole ship's company.

The Symptoms of Scurvy. The disease is well defined, and readily distinguished from every other, the patient first complains of languor, debility and lassitude, when he sits down he is averse to rising, his breath is particularly fœtid, the gums are spongy, and that part which embraces the enamel of the teeth, has the appearance of fungous flesh, they are liable to bleed from the slightest pressure. In the

more advanced stage, the hams become contracted, where livid blotches first make their appearance, arising as I suppose, from a partial decomposition or alteration of the crasis of the blood, occasioning error loci, or even a rupture of the capillaries; there are petechiæ in different parts, and particularly on the legs, the livid blotches or vibices, as the disease advances, are numerous. In case of contusion or sprain, there is always considerable ecchymosis, by which we are frequently led to the detection of the disease before other symptoms have demonstrated a scorbutic diathesis. The breathing is always affected, but the dyspnæa is not depending upon an organic or inflammatory affection of the lungs, but is the offspring of asthenia and the effect of debility, the countenance becomes bloated and bombicinous, the pulse is small, and all the animal functions suffer in a ratio proportionate to the virulence of the disease.

The singular symptom of nictalopia has occasionally been observed, though I have often known seamen become almost blind soon after the sun has left the horizon, particularly in the torrid zone, yet I never remarked this symptom in any of the scorbutic affections that have ever come under my care. When ulcers are present, they are covered with a brown slough, and cannot be healed until the habit be ameliorated: the legs become ædematous, and death soon closes the scene, when proper remedies are not applied.

The Causes of Scurvy. The remote causes are salted provisions, and such articles of diet as have been injured by long keeping, are hard of digestion, and deprived of the greatest portion of their nourishment; inactivity, dejection of mind, nostalgia, or a longing desire of revisiting one's native country or particular friends, smoking or chewing tobacco, breathing a tainted and corrupt atmosphere, occasioned

either from want of personal cleanliness, or filth generated in an ill regulated and bad disciplined ship. The putrid stench of bilge water, or the decomposition of water and vegetable or animal substances in the hold of a ship, the danger of which is not always sufficiently attended to, and which appears to me to be peculiarly destructive to animal existence, and may be one cause why sailors are so short lived, and look so much older than other men of the same age. Deficiency of vegetable matter, the depressing passions, want of tone in the muscular fibres, grog drinking, which produces debilitating effects by too much excitement on a body already suffering from want of nutriment, than which nothing is more prejudicial to His Majesty's service, and the health of seamen.

The Treatment of Scurvy. The dereliction and avoiding the exciting causes are the first

steps to be taken, moderate exercise and hilarity will prove conducive to the success of the remedies made use of, the chief and best of which is certainly the citric acid, or expressed juice of lemons or limes, from one to six ounces may be taken daily, it is generally given by mixing it with water and adding a considerable quantity of sugar or molasses to it, raisins, grapes, figs, ripe fruits and vegetable matters, together with a generous diet consisting of fresh animal food and rich soups soon effect a cure; a few glasses of a generous bodied wine should be daily administered. I have been in the habit of giving the decoctum cinchonæ as an auxiliary acidulated with the sulphuric acid.. When neither vegetables nor lemon-juice can be procured, a solution of nitras potassæ or nitre in vinegar may be used, an ingenious *Naval Surgeon*, named Paterson or Pattison, published a pamphlet on the subject some years ago.

Though I believe the lemon juice and fresh vegetable matters will of themselves effect a cure, yet it is adviseable to impart fresh stamina by allowing the patient the most generous diet that can be procured, for the cure will always be considerably expedited by fresh animal food, and the constitution secured from future attacks. The essence of malt so much talked of, I have given in great quantities, and never knew it to be of any service; I believe molasses is a much superior remedy.

Of the Prophylaxis. The best preventatives in long voyages are a plentiful supply of vegetables, cleanliness, ventilation, the different species of hilarity, such as singing and dancing, serving out wine in lieu of grog, vinegar should be taken with the salted meat, and when there is no lime or lemon juice, it may be occasionally mixed with the water which the men drink; whenever a cask of water is taken out of the

hold, if it be not perfectly sweet the ventilator should be used. A greater proportion of fruit, flour, sugar, or molasses should be served out than usual or substituted for the salt meat. The substitution of good ale or porter for spirits would be very beneficial.

HÆMORRHOIS; OR THAT SWELLING AND FLUX OF BLOOD DENOMINATED PILES.

THEY have been divided into two species, namely the blind and bleeding; they have also been named external and internal, from the parts they have occupied: that is to say, the inside of the rectum, or outside of the anus. This disease is, as far as I am capable of judging, devoid of all danger provided it be not neglected, and suffered to disorganize the parts, or to become habitual, and is peculiarly incident to the sedentary and those who are of a costive habit. The blood is dis-

charged most commonly on going to stool, and is evacuated, either from ruptured varicose veins, on the verge of the anus ; or collections in the cellular texture of the rectum. The manner in which these tumours are formed, appears to be an impediment to the return of venous blood from the lower part of the intestinum rectum, arising from a lodgment of indurated fæces, or atony of the vascular and fibrous structure of this part. The former is I believe the most frequent cause. There is generally great pain experienced on going to stool, which can be more rationally accouuted for, from that tension which takes place in consequence of the effusion producing inflammation, which is often present exciting pain ; when no efforts are made : than to suppose as many writers have done, that this pain, inflammation, and pyrexia which is frequently produced, should indicate a general affection of the system, which can only be considered

as the effect of local irritation, causing a symptomatic, and not an idiopathic derangement. The most expeditious method of curing this complaint, is to keep the bowels open, and to be careful to reduce the tumours, or protruded rectum, after going to stool, by pushing them up within the sphincter ani, which may in general be very easily effected, by covering the point of the fore-finger with a piece of soft paper or linen rag; for when they are kept in a state of incarceration, sinous, and even fistulous ulcers are frequently the consequence. That dread which antient authors have expressed, respecting the repulsion of these tumours, is mere chimera, surely if there were any plethora in the system, bleeding from the arm would be better, than promoting a discharge from a painful and inconvenient part. I have known cloths dipped in a solution of cerussa acetata applied cold to the part have a most excellent effect, in as

much as it abstracted heat, diminished pain and reduced the tumours. Dashing cold water against the part, by sitting over a convenient vessel is attended with good effects.

The application of leeches will prove a useful auxiliary when the tension is great, and the inflammation does not yield very readily to the cold saturnine remedies. An electuary composed of flos sulphuris cremor tartari and electuarium e senna is the best aperient that I am acquainted with, it may be neccessary to give a purgative immediately on the first attack, but aloes should be avoided : and as the bowels after purging often become constipated, this must be obviated by the electuary already recommended. When the hæmorrhage is so excessive as to debilitate or endanger the patient, those medicines which are termed styptic or astringent, should be had recourse to ; and if they prove abortive, the rectum must

be plugged up, and firm compresses are to be applied and secured by bandaging. With regard to the prophylactic means necessary to be adopted, the exciting causes are to be avoided, and particularly costiveness; cleanliness and cold ablution should be observed.

CATARRHUS.

THE disease named Catarrh, has been distinguished by authors, namely, Catarrhus a frigore, or that occasioned by cold, from Catarrhus a contagione, or that which is produced by contagion; and is generally styled Influenza. The common Catarrh is a complaint which is very frequent though seldom fatal, if attended to on its first attack; it is characterized by an increased secretion from the membrana mucosa of the nose, throat, mouth, lungs, and eyes; there is generally a cough, and the discharge from the nose and eyes is often so acrid as to produce excoriation and inflammation, the eyes are occasionally red and inflamed, a difficulty

of breathing with a sense of fulness in one or both nostrils occurs, there is often a pain in the frontal sinuses and forehead, which together with the defluxion from the nose, constitute coryza. There is generally felt a great susceptibility of cold with universal languor and debility, accompanied with a sense of chilliness, and frequency of pulse. These symptoms are occasionally succeeded by a hoarse stridulous respiration, cough, and not unfrequently dyspnæa, and wandering or fixed pain of the chest. All of which symptoms are relieved when the cough becomes loose, and expectoration commences. To a student of medicine or one who is just commencing his practical and professional career, the difficulties attending the treatment of this disease, will almost appear insurmountable ; especially when he suffers his reflecting faculties to cogitate on the contradictory rules laid down by eminent authors : therefore in order to avoid all perplexity the mind should be entirely

divested of every species of partiality and prejudice. Why should a rational liberal minded, well-educated gentleman, make such a humiliating sacrifice of his own good, common sense, and discernment, as to become a blind devotee to the doctrinæ dogmaticæ of any author, however famous he may be. Indeed to me it appears evident that the medical profession has been greatly injured through that propensity which its cultivators have ever manifested, by acting in obedience to the arbitrary dictates of some particular writer or professor; instead of giving their own reasoning powers their full swing, which can alone detect error and dethrone superstition, by entering into a close examination of logical disquisitions, illuminated by the torch of practical and experimental knowlege. Hence the great folly of some men who say always use the lancet, and the weakness of others who condemn phlebotomy altogether. To elucidate these positions, let us suppose that two pa-

tients are seized with the same disease, we all know that their symptoms will, according to their different temperaments or habits of body, and modes of life, be exceedingly various; as for instance, in Catarrh, one shall be affected with pneumonic complaints, exhibiting the strongest marks of sthenic action and diathesis, whilst the other shall be characterized by every asthenic symptom, evidenced by a very quick and weak pulse, a sense of chilliness and universal langour and debility. The mere tyro and greatest ignoramus need not have his judgment insulted by being told which of these cases requires bleeding. Now let me ask what it is that distinguishes the man of science and physician from the unlettered and ignorant charlatan? does it not consist in the former being enabled to render a reason for the treatment which he adopts? Whereas the latter, has only the rule of thumb, or that *science* denominated rote, to steer him through the rocks and quick sands which are

so thickly sown in the ocean of pathology. There is surely much to be learned after quiting a professor's elbow!

Authors also differ concerning the cause of Catarrh, heat has been assigned as the sole cause of it, but it seems to be generally thought that cold excites it, and to the last opinion I give my assent, for I know by personal experience, that long continued exposure to the cold will produce the disease, independent of any sudden transition to a heated chamber or warm atmosphere: though I feel fully sensible that the sudden transition from a cold, to a warm temperature of the air, may, and frequently does aggravate the disease; for when an excessive degree of excitability, or sensorial power, or I would rather say torpor, is generated, if it be not taken off gradatim, a complete or partial destruction or disorganization of the affected parts, will be the inevitable consequence: which has been so repeat-

edly evidenced in frost-bitten cases. And so far from a warm atmosphere being injurious to people ill of Catarrh, I believe that in general it is the only method of getting rid of it. I remember when attending the classes at Edinburgh that Dr. Gregory was very subject to this complaint, and that he generally shut himself up until he recovered : and experience resulting from my own practice, convinces me that avoiding exposure to a cold air in ordinary cases constitutes a principal part of the cure. I have experienced most excellent effects from emetics, in the commencement of the disease, when their use was not contra-indicated by the presence of considerable inflammation in the breast. I conceive slight pectoral affections do not militate against the practice, for lately when the British troops were returning from Germany in the winter season, I experienced their great utility both amongst the soldiers and sailors, in an Hospital Ship. A solution of antimonium tartarisatum,

I commonly use, and always direct the patient to remain in bed, which I conceive is the best mode of administering emetics, as by this means a plentiful perspiration is produced, and the complaint cut short. After the stomach is settled an opiate conjoined with the antimonial powder, taking after it a draught of warm wine and water, or even spirit and water, is often beneficial. In giving opium I must remark that half a grain or one grain is seldom of any service, for a night dose, when circumstances point out the propriety of administering it; not less than two grains should be given, especially if it be not purified. Confinement and sudorifics, will in common cases, soon restore the patient to a state of convalescence, and the cure will be perfected by the use of gentle tonics and the gradual return to former habits.

Cases often occur wherein catarrhal and pneumonic symptoms are so blended together, as to

constitute a disease participating of the nature of both, Catarrh and Pneumonia; and when this is the case, a rational and scientific practitioner will not be at a loss how to treat this mixed complaint, he will not pay so much attention to nosological form and arrangement, as to allow them to give to his judgment a wrong bias, with regard to the plans necessary to be adopted: he will regard nosology as useful, in as much as it teaches how to distinguish and form a line of separation between the leading features of diseases, but in no other light will he view it. Therefore when the sensation of a line drawn tight across the chest, accompanied with painful inspiration, a flushed countenance, and accelerated, hard pulse, and dry skin, as it were parched up with heat are present, a mode of cure diametrically opposite to that which has been just now recommended, must be pursued. The antiphlogistic plan is to be adopted to its full extent, both with regard to regimen and medicine, so that the same remedies which are

applicable to a case of pure pneumonia, are equally requisite in this catarrho-pneumonic affection. But care must be taken not to push them too far, for a period of debility will arrive which may prove fatal, and particularly in the aged; an instance of which I lately witnessed in the person of a general officer and governor of a garrison, with whom I was acquainted, and was called in to visit after he had been labouring under a bad Catarrh for about three weeks, he was 62 years of age, remarkably corpulent, and was accustomed to a generous stimulating diet. I found him labouring under every symptom of peripneumonia notha, the pulmonary secretion or defluxion on his lungs was immense, and his pulse asthenic, beating 130 pulsations in a minute. The volatile alkali, opium, and other diffusible stimuli, together with dietetic or durable ones were had recourse to, but without much effect, for though he experienced a temporary relief, yet the destructive disease had advanced too far to be

arrested by that medicinal aid, which in his protracted stage of disease, was alone calculated to afford the smallest prospect of success. Thus was this general's earthly career terminated, who had long and faithfully served his country, and who bled in her defence on the plains of Egypt.

INFLUENZA.

A question has arisen amongst Physicians, respecting the contagious or non-contagious nature of this disease: and I believe that the majority of medical men are of opinion that it is not contagious. It has very often made its appearance in England, and in different parts of Europe, at or about the same time. Its last visit we received in the spring of the year 1803, at which period I was of opinion that the remote causes of the disease originated in the sudden change of atmosphere, which we experienced in this kingdom, a change I believe generally felt throughout the united kingdoms; as well as upon the Continent of Europe. Having kept no meteorological diary, the facts rela-

tive to the weather are deduced from my memory. The heat during the greatest part of the days in the latter end of March and beginning of April, was such as few people ever before endured at that season, its approach was as sudden as its departure, not giving the constitution an opportunity of accommodating itself either to the expansion occasioned by the heat, or the stricture produced by the cold. If the above plain statement be correct, we may save ourselves the trouble of ransacking the bowels of the earth, or of darting with microscopic eye into the insect kingdom, to discover what seems to have perplexed our great philosophers. I myself had the prevailing epidemic, which I attributed to taking too much exercise during the warm, unseasonable weather, and not to contagion; for had the complaint been infectious, Mrs. C. and the rest of my family would surely have suffered from it. I was very ill four or five days, but not so as to prevent me from discharging the duties of my profession, in at-

tending my patients. I was first seized with considerable pain in my head, a sense of languor and debility, and heaviness of my eyes; at times I felt a sense of chilliness. I here wish to observe that I conceived this complaint to be very different from catarrh, for neither in myself, nor any of my patients, did I observe any affection of the mucous membrane of the nose, or watery eyes so commonly noticed in the latter disease. By taking a Calomel purge, using pediluvium, and taking an anodyne antimonial medicine, with some white wine whey, and by perseverance in the bolus, &c. for three nights, I found myself in a convalescent state; but my head for a fortnight or more on the slightest exertion, was subject to pain and throbbing something like palpitation, which I attributed to atony of the system and consequent increased vascular action. By way of divesting my medical brethren of prejudice with respect to bleeding in this disease, I have to observe that the case of a patient, 61 years of age, ranked

with the worst that came under my care. This old man was severely affected with the prevailing epidemic, and I have reason to think if the dictates of timidity had influenced my practice, he must either have died, or lingered out the remainder of his days in phthisis pulmonalis. He was at first taken with all the usual symptoms in an aggravated degree, the pyrexia, and debility were great, dyspnæa and painful inspiration intolerable, he complained of a stitch and tightness across his chest, so that to use his own expression, there was no room for the air to descend into his lungs, his pulse though frequent was small and tremulous, his debility such that he with difficulty could raise his head from the pillow. The treatment of such a case required time and consideration, yet there was not a moment to be lost: something was to be done, though not rashly, for without relief death appeared inevitable. The candid reader will easily conceive the difficulty and dilemma attendant on such a case, his debilitatd state,

his tremulous quick and weak pulse, according to some people's theories forbade the use of the lancet, particularly in this complaint, yet he was bled to the amount of ten ounces, though the blood did not flow from a large orifice, yet I never in the whole course of my practice beheld so much coagulable lymph, as presented itself to my view the next day; it was truly a buffy coat, not many degrees removed from the nature of a bull's hide, and considerably thicker; it constituted a third part of the crassamentum, covering its whole surface. As his bowels were bound, a Calomel purge was administered, which operated freely, yet after those evacuations the stitch and tightness still continued, and in less than 24 hours the bleeding was repeated to the same amount, and he was blistered. By observing the antiphlogistic regimen, and by giving small and repeated doses of Kali Nitratum with the addition of a small quantity of Tartar Emetic, the violence of his complaint began to subside, after which, by the administration of

gentle anodynes, conjoined with *Tinctura Scillæ* he began to expectorate, and his recovery when his pulmonic complaints ceased was expedited by the exhibition of tonics.

Another case or two of a similar nature occurred which were treated by bleeding, and afterwards giving the Tincture of Digitalis as long as the inflammatory symptoms were prevalent.

My chief reason for mentioning the above cases is for the purpose of their operating as a caution to such as may have imbibed wrong notions, and vainly imagine that bleeding is attended with the most fatal consequences, yet I do not wish it to go abroad, that because I adduce a few instances wherein phlebotomy was successful, that I conceive it to be always necessary; by no means, for I would have quite the reverse to be understood, as I met with many cases that would not bear it, and I

must again observe, that much must ever be left to the judgment of the practitioner, and that his opinion should not always yield to the dogmatical dictates of book instructors.

DYSENTERIA, OR DYSENTERY.

IS a disease which often proves fatal, and has committed extensive ravages in fleets and armies; it is distinguished by frequent stools, and in small quantity; attended with tenesmus, a constant inclination to void the excrements, and a desire to remain in that position; the matter evacuated is mucus, frothy, and sometimes mixed with blood. The natural fæces rarely appear except in scybala or hardened round balls, and there is always a griping and lancinating pain in the bowels.

Almost all medical writers agree, that this disease is contagious, yet I never knew it propagated in this manner, though I have wit-

nessed its effects in Europe, America, and the West Indies, both by land and by sea. It occasionally happens that Typhus is converted into Dysentery, and vice versa; when this occurs the patient is reduced to a low ebb, and from the corruption of the fluids, disagreeable fætors emanate from the body, which I doubt not do often occasion the disease, but not so often as is supposed. We are told it is to be doubted whether cold ever produces the disease, unless where the specific contagion has been received into the body, and that upon the whole, it is probable that it is to be considered the remote cause of the disease. This position I can never give my assent to; for I have known diarrhœas from cold or other causes, assume a dysenteric type, and I verily believe that almost all the dysenteries of the present day, originate in the same manner. In confirmation of this opinion, I beg leave to notice an occurrence of dysentery, in every ship of a squadron off Cuxhaven, in the month of

February, when most of the officers and men were indiscriminately attacked, with bowel complaints ; varying in their violence, duration and symptoms ; from slight diarrhœa to well defined dysentery. Contagion I am confident was not the remote cause of the disease ; and the only exciting powers that appeared to me to exist as the real cause, might be attributed either to the moist foggy and cold state of the air, or to the brackish water with which we were supplied. The complaint in several instances was extremely obstinate, and I imagine that both the state of the weather and water exercised a certain degree of influence in the production of the disease. The matter evacuated is generally fœtid, and varies its colour and consistency, agreeably to the violence and continuation of the complaint. I have known patients ill for some time without being affected with pyrexia, at other times febrile symptoms have been present. The disease is more prevalent in tropical than cold climates, which in all probabi-

lity is owing to a diseased state of the bile, or to a redundancy of that fluid. In the cure of dysentery we are told by a variety of writers that bleeding is frequently necessary, however, I can safely aver that I never saw a case which required it, and notwithstanding I never used the lancet, I have the satisfaction to say that I never lost a patient. When pyrexial symptoms or nausea prevailed, I have usually given an emetic of Ipecacuanha and Tartar Emetic, which generally operated both ways, after which an anodyne was given at bed-time, for the most part containing two grains of opium; if I thought the intestines had not been sufficiently acted upon, a saline purgative either of the Natron Vitriolatum, or Magnesia Vitriolata, was given in the morning fasting, desiring the patient to drink after the commencement of its operation plentifully of gruel or barley-water. On the same evening ten or twelve grains of the Pulvis Ipecac. comp. with an additional grain of opium was frequently

prescribed, and the Dover's powder continued for a day or two, when if it were found that the complaint did not yield, the saline purgative was again ordered, and the same remedies were alternately employed with little variation, sometimes changing the Dover's powder for a mixture composed of gum arabic, Creta Præparata and Laudanum, or powders or boluses with Pulv. Ipecac. gr. j Creta ppt. ʒss. vel. ℈ij Pulv. Rhabarb tosti gr. v. Opii gr. j M ter de die sumendus. So that by this treatment, clothing the patient with flannel next his skin, especially if in a cold country; and by giving him pudding meats, rice, sago and arrow root. I seldom experienced much difficulty in recovering him. The arrow-root I consider to be an excellent auxiliary, and it may be also employed in enemas. I have always found it advantageous to use opium freely at *night*, for when the sick are under the necessity of leaving a warm bed, to go to stool several times during the night, the action of the air by obstructing

perspiration, does invariably aggravate the disease; this should be attended to particularly in ships, where the men go to the head, naked in the night season. Ginger is very serviceable, and may be either taken with other medicine, or mixed with the common drink. Passing a flannel roller all the way from the hips to the arm-pits, of a moderate degree of firmness round the body, has lately been recommended. I have known some bad cases after resisting all the usual remedies, yield to mercurial inunctions, which I shall exemplify by the following narration. Whilst in private practice, I was desired to visit a young man aged 20, who had been long subject to a violent purging. I found him also affected with many of the symptoms of typhus gravior, he was comatose, frequently muttered, and occasionally catched at the bed clothes, his tongue was covered with a brown fur, his skin hot, pulse low and feeble. The period for cleansing the rimæ viæ had long elapsed, and the only plan

of cure which presented itself to my mind was at once to endeavour to check the purging, and restore perspiration. To effect these purposes, the Dover's powder was prescribed, and the dose increased until he took two scruples in twenty-four hours; he was put into a hot bath, and had flannel applied to his skin, his food was farinaceous and glutinous, but his stomach was so irritable, it could retain little, and that quickly passed through him; his egesta were often tinged with blood. I considered this disease to be a well marked dysentery, as it was attended with tenesmus and shooting pains in his bowels, particularly about the regio umbilici. Finding those remedies fail, I had recourse to a variety of astringents such as catechu and Creta ppt. combined with aromatics and Laudanum, to the amount of gttæ. 100, in course of the day and night, but these were also useless, and did not alleviate a single symptom. I was hitherto completely baffled, and now determined to try the effect of solid

opium, and strange to tell he took seven grains in twenty-four hours, without restraining the purging. Though I have been in the habit of treating dysentery in tropical climes, in the whole course of my practice I never knew opium have so little effect; it has frequently cured this complaint, I may almost say, per se; and with the help of a saline purgative or two, it seldom failed. But as my patient was so much reduced, purging under such circumstances would have been an act of unpardonable temerity. Nor durst I attempt to give a combination of calomel with opium: I therefore had recourse to mercurial inunction, and with the happiest effects, it crowned the earnest expectations I had formed from it.

About two ozs. of the Ungentum fortius were rubbed in before its operation on the system became visible. As soon as his mouth was affected, his skin grew moist; and on visiting him

one morning, I was astonished to find him in a perspiration so profuse, that the hair of his head resembled the grass in a summer's morning bespangled with dew. Every untoward symptom now began to vanish, his mind which had been so long oppressed, again exerted its rational powers, his stomach, instead of loathing food, relished it, in fine the dysentery was cured by the stimulating and deobstruent qualities of the mercury, which perfectly restored the healthful equilibrium, that appeared to have been destroyed from want of cuticular secretion. An analeptic regimen, aided by tonic medicines soon restored him to society.

After this concise though faithful narration of a case, as singularly obstinate and dangerous perhaps as any on record, in which the powers of Mercury were so eminently and *certainly* displayed, it behoves me to discharge a duty which I owe to the profession and society in strenu-

ously recommending this remedy; this sine quâ non, in all dangerous and doubtful cases. The good effects of Mercurial Inunction in Typhus, and other malignant fevers, have been displayed in numberless instances, and well merit the serious attention of such gentlemen, as are strangers to this mode of practice. The ever to be deprecated idea that innovations are *always* dangerous, serves to shut the door of reason, and prevent the cheering rays of science and improvement, from illuminating the benighted mind. The Catechu, Extractum Campechensis and other astringents may be, and certainly are beneficial in chronic dysenteric complaints, and should be considered as useful auxiliaries. Starch enemas with plenty of Laudanum will relieve tenesmus, and pains in the rectum.

With regard to the most proper kind of food, much will depend upon the feelings of the pa-

tient, when beef or veal soup seasoned, can be taken, it will support and strengthen, more than the most nutritious of the farinaceous tribe.

DIARRHŒA; OR LOOSENESS.

A DISEASE arising from a variety of causes, occasioning great frequency of loose stools; but which is much milder in its effects than that which we last treated on. Indeed it would be difficult to define the precise spot where Diarrhœa ends and Dysentery begins; for as has been already observed, a neglected Diarrhœa is often converted into the latter disease. The causes which most frequently excite the complaint, are I suppose the action of cold long applied producing a stricture on the surface of the body, and a consequent internal congestion, increasing the secretion in the intestines, diminishing absorption by the lacteals, and even causing them to be affected

with a retrograde motion. Acescent food and such as is difficult of digestion. Bile poured out into the intestines in too great quantity, or of too acrid a nature, &c. So that in this complaint the plan of cure must be regulated according to the knowledge of existing circumstances. If cold have been the cause, warm clothing with such remedies as will restore the perspiration are to be prescribed. The Pulvis Ipecac. comp. in this case is an excellent medicine. When it is supposed that a superabundance of acid either generated in the stomach, or otherwise produced is the cause absorbents should be employed. Much mischief has accrued from the indiscriminate use of purgatives, and particularly, to young and delicate children, whose lives it is to be apprehended, have not unfrequently been sacrificed from such injudicious treatment. In all delicate people, the propriety of cathartics should be doubted, and when the cuticular secretion is not materially affected the follow-

ing mixture will generally cure a common Diarrhœa ℞ Pulv. Gum Arabici,

Cretæ ppt. aa ʒiij

Confect. Aromat. ʒij

Tinct. Opii. gtt 80

Aqua Cinamomi ℥viij. m. ft. Mist cujus æger capiat ℥j 3tia. vel. 4ta. quâque horâ quamdiu opus erit. When this disease has been protracted, astringents such as Kino and Catechu either in powder or tincture assisted by aromatics will be found useful. In young children during the period of dentition laudanum conjoined with Cret. Præparata is the best remedy which I am acquainted with, the former allays the inordinate actions associated from pain and irritation, the latter absorbs and neutralizes that acid which is so prevalent in infants.

CHOLERA.

THE disease so called, is attended with a bilious vomiting and purging, so violent in its effects, as frequently to put a speedy termination to existence. It is much more common in the torrid than the temperate zone; in Europe its attacks are chiefly confined to the autumnal and summer months, when the sun from its action on the system, occasions too great a secretion of bile; imparting also, some degree of acrimony to it, which is plainly evinced by the tormina, and racking pains usually felt, and those spasms which not only affect the intestines, but abdominal and other muscles. The pulse and respiration are materially affected, but there are not often, any py-

rexial symptoms; increased vascular action, and disordered breathing, are caused by the agitation of the system from the violence of the vomiting. When the force of the disease has not been speedily subdued, universal debility, coldness of the extremities, swooning, and cold sweats on the face and head occur, and denote approaching dissolution. Æther, Laudanum, spiced wine, and other stimuli, are the only remedies we can look up to, with any hopes of success, in this protracted stage. In the beginning of the complaint no species of evacuants are to be used, for the vomiting is so violent, that should any thing taken into the stomach have been the cause of it, nothing more than mild, demulcent and diluent drinks are needful; such as toast and water, barley water, or tea, with some portion of milk in it. In order to alleviate pain and spasms, Opium is the only medicine that can be relied on, which may be administered either in a solid or liquid state, and repeated at such

intervals as the vomiting and urgency of the other symptoms may demand ; it should not be trifled with, nor given with a sparing hand. Warm brandy and water, or even brandy alone in desperate cases, will have a good effect. Stimulating the scrobiculus cordis with essential oils, camphorated spirit and laudanum, I have known to have good effects. The water generally sold by the name of Soda Water, or common water impregnated with carbonic acid may in some cases afford relief, though I never had an opportunity of trying it.

LUES VENEREA.

MORE than three centuries have elapsed since the Venereal Disease made its appearance in Europe, and fortunate it is for society, that Providence has so ordered it, that those people who are in a state of celibacy, and chiefly the debauchee and courtezan, are almost the only sufferers, who may be said to carry about with them a portion of that punishment, which falls to the lot of those, whose lives and actions, do not accord with the doctrines of Christianity. It would be beneficial to society were physicians to inculcate lessons of morality, which I conceive to be one part of their professional duty when giving advice to their patients, since many,

very many of our clergymen are so remiss in discharging the obligations of their sacred functions. O tempora o mores, o populi res magni momenti timete !

It is not so much my intention to enter into a detail of the various symptoms and phenomena, produced in the course of this disease, as to endeavour to point out, what I conceive to be the best mode of treating the complaint. It is well known that Mercury is the only remedy which we are acquainted with, that can radically cure, and may justly be styled specific. But it must be remembered that many a good constitution has been made a mere wreck by the abuse of it. Fully aware of the difficulty and utter impossibility of fixing the precise period, wherein it is proper to desist from its further use ; I shall only presume to throw out such hints, as may tend to assist the inexperienced practitioner, and such as may be considered land marks, or beacons, to guide him through a dangerous navigation.

This disease is propagated by infection, and the symptoms which denote its diffusion through the body, are ulcerations of the mouth and fauces, eruptions about the roots of the hair, on the forehead, neck, and every part of the frame; having a pearly appearance, with a dark and copperish colour of the skin underneath. To these are to be added exostoses, nodes, swelling and caries of the bones with tetters and ulcers of the skin. The complaint obtains the name of Bubo, Chancre, Clap, &c. when its effects are local. The glans penis or prepuce are for the most part affected, though it is supposed that people have been poxed without having any external mark of the disease, the virus frequently exerts its influence on the scrotum. When it is mixed with mucus and applied to the urethra, it produces the clap or gonorrhœa. Upon the glans penis and prepuce its virulence is displayed by small vesications which soon burst and leave behind a chancre, laying a foundation for absorption, which speedily

takes place, provided recourse be not had to remedies, that decompose, destroy, or render the poison effete. This virus possesses the power of assimilation, by which in a short time its baneful effects are displayed throughout every part of the system. Though I have known it lie dormant for three months after an impure connection, and then break out with great virulence. Its effects are chiefly manifested on the lymphatic system, occasioning pain and inflammation in the vessels and glands through which it must pass, before it can be conveyed into the circulation.

As the disease is for the most part communicated to the system through the medium of a chancre, or chancres, I propose treating on them previously to the confirmed pox, or Lues Venerea, named by the French, *la verole, la grande verole, la maladie venerienne.* Chancres or venereal ulcers I have already observed make their appearance on parts that are covered

with a thin cuticle, as the glans penis, prepuce, urethra, nymphæ, labia pudendi, lips, mouth, and nipples. It has been observed when the virus is introduced into the system through accident, by means of a cut or wound, that the symptoms were more violent, which is not easily accounted for, without a quicker absorption or want of dilution from mucus, may have some share in producing such effects. The remedies which I have constantly found successful in the cure of primary venereal sores, are Argentum Nitratum and a solution of the Muriate of Quicksilver. In order to prevent the caustic from spreading, a piece of dry lint should be applied after the chancre has been touched; should excessive inflammation take place from great irritability of habit, plunging the head of the penis into cold water will relieve it. A solution of the Corrosive Sublimate, of the strength of one grain, or half a grain to an ounce of soft water, may be applied on the following day, by soaking lint in it. I have

sometimes known the solution, when it contained one grain to the ounce, produce blisters on the glans, which inconvenience can easily be obviated by lowering it. This aqueous form of dressing enables you to keep the parts much cleaner, than you can possibly do with unctuous substances, which from their nature, cannot form so intimate a union with the venereal virus, or impart the virtue of the active ingredient that they may contain, so effectually and expeditiously as the lotion, which I have ever found to answer my most sanguine expectations. The wet lint should be applied three times a day, and the whole of the penis may be washed with the lotion at each dressing. During the cure a pill, containing one grain of calomel and one of opium may be given every night at bed-time, and occasionally in the morning if the patient be robust. When less opium is used, the pills generally prove purgative, which must entirely defeat your intention: therefore a quantity of Opium sufficient

to prevent this occurrence, ought invariably to be used; for twenty pills which do not affect the bowels, will be of more service to the patient than five times that number, when the mercury runs off by stool, and cannot consequently be taken up into the circulation. Though I am averse to the administration of mercury by the mouth, yet in cases where very little is requisite, there is no necessity to subject your patiect to the trouble and inconvenience of rubbing in: for it frequently happens that the chancres get well in a few days, by the above plan, and that absorption is prevented by destroying the poison in limine.

You may say how can we be certain that the system is not tainted, the following enquiries will give you confidence, and authorize you when answered in the negative, to conclude that your patient is safe.

Have you had any swelling or soreness of

the inguinal glands, or painful sensation stretching along the course of the lymphatics from the sores ? And should you be answered in the affirmative, these symptoms are only local.

This leads me to the treatment of bubo, which I believe is often only a sympathetic affection, however as this can never be clearly ascertained, when chancres have made their appearance, there is a foundation for the supposition of absorption having taken place. When this is the case Mercurial Inunction should be had recourse to, as the surest and safest means of eradicating the disease, which it frequently does before the enemy quits his post. Therefore after buboes have continued for a length of time you may again put the question. Have you experienced any degree of soreness in your throat ? Have you any eruption on your skin ? And when you discover from the answers of your patient as well as from inspec-

tion, that there are not any symptoms which indicate danger, it would be very indiscreet to push the mercury such lengths, as might for ever injure the health and constitution of your patient. In general when the buboes are either dispersed or suppurated, and the mercury has shewn an evident effect on the system, by producing a slight soreness of the gums, it will be proper to desist from its further use, and wait the event, as it is much easier and better to begin a fresh course, than to repair a broken constitution. In cases attended with considerable inflammation, mercury in any shape will prove injurious, and increase the inflammatory action, which I suppose it does, by adding to that irritability, which is already in such cases too abundant. Therefore the inflammation must be subdued before the mercury can be again used, and the most expeditious mode of effecting it, is by the application of leeches, and the cold saturnine lotion, or Aqua Lithargyri Acetati composita, which should be kept con-

stantly on the part, by means of linen rags renewed as often as they become warm. Our utmost exertions will not at all times prevent suppuration, and when the cold applications have not the desired effect, they should be omitted, and warm emollient poultices applied until suppuration is sufficiently advanced to admit of their being opened by the point of a lancet; the most depending point should be chosen, and the orifice should not be large. When they are suffered to discharge their contents spontaneously, there is often great destruction of parts, and very extensive ulceration, which evils are most effectually obviated by the timely use of the lancet. After they have been opened either naturally or artificially, it will be necessary to continue the emollient cataplasm for a short time; when they are to be treated in every respect, as common ulcers: I should have observed in addition to the leeches and cold application, that purging and even bleeding from the arm may occasionally be

requisite in the discussion of a bubo, observing a strict antiphlogistic regimen. In cases where the external inflammation is not great the volatile liniment has been found very serviceable. In order to account for the failure of mercury in discussing those tumors, it must be remembered that there are two sets of inguinal lymphatic glands, called the superior and inferior, the application of the ointment being now always either to the inside of the leg or thigh of the side affected, it follows that when there is not a communication between the two sets of glands the mercury only passes through the inferior set, and from them into the abdomen, and so on to the ductus thoracicus; without entering the superior glands which are alone affected, as the virus is conveyed to them from the genitals. Does not this point out the propriety of rubbing the ointment into the penis and scrotum? which I believe is not often done.

Buboes sometimes remain hard and inflamed in spite of the means already mentioned, without either suppurating or dispersing; in such cases a piece of Argentum Nitratum may be applied to the centre of the tumor, for a few hours, and the eschar anointed with ungt. hydrargysi fortius, covering the whole with an emollient cataplasm. The exulcerations arising from those tumors are frequently very difficult to heal, and especially when too much mercury has been thrown into the system or the body debilitated by improper evacuations, which I shall endeavour to illustrate by a case in point before I quit this subject. A young countryman placed himself under my care lately for the cure of an ulcerated bubo, he informed me that the gentleman who treated his complaint prior to his application to me, had given him large quantities of pills, which I suppose were of calomel, as they had occasioned an incessant purging for some weeks. The young man perceiving himself decline in health, and his

sore growing larger, imagined he was improperly treated, and applied to me, which proved to be a fortunate circumstance, for a sinus had already formed itself, extending from the inferior border of his callous ulcer, along the edge of the scrotum, stretching towards the anus, in the direction of the rapha perinæi. I supposed from the emaciated appearance of my patient, and excessive discharge from the groin that his habit had either been supersaturated with mercury, or that he was so much reduced as to forbid the adoption of any treatment save that which was calculated to restore lost stamina. On these premises I desired him to leave off the pills, and instead of a spare diet, which he had been ordered to live upon, I caused him to pursue a plan diametrically opposite: and administered opium in sufficient quantities to allay irritation, and suppress the purging. By the assistance of strong jellies, new laid eggs, good port and mild ale, &c. he was easily restored to a better state of health. At the expiration

of a month finding the discharge from the bubo still ichorous, without any amendment in appearance (it still exhibited a callous inflamed margin with a white sloughy bottom) I thought myself justified by directing him to rub in a drachm of the strong ointment, into the thigh of the side affected every night; but he did not persevere in its use for more than a week, when colliquative night sweats commenced, which determined me to abandon it altogether, and confide in the tonic plan that I had first set out on, aiding my efforts to heal this obstinate sore, by the use of adhesive strips of plaster, *compresses*, and a tight roller, which was passed round the body and upper part of the thigh so as to form a figure of 8 beginning by pinning it round the Ilia, as is done in cases of amputation. I soon had the happiness to find this method succeed; the callosity disappeared, and the cicatrizing process was soon completed, by

managing the bandage so as to press immediately on the edges of the ulcer.

Presuming on the propriety of the means adopted, from the success attendant upon the case, I think myself authorized to recommend the application of graduated compresses, and firm bandaging in similar cases; conscious that great benefit is to be derived from this mode of dressing. Several cases of a like nature have come within the sphere of my knowledge, whose cures have been retarded by the injudicious and improper use of mercury. The observations I have made from a variety of cases, embolden me to remark agreeably to my own opiniou, that local venereal complaints such as chancres and buboes require much less mercury than what is in general so liberally bestowed upon them. When we are enabled to discuss a bubo, I suppose for the most part, the antidote arrests the enemy in his citadel and by destroying him there, pre-

vents him from committing any further ravages; but some imagine on his forsaking his position that he has only retired to appear in a more formidable manner; and on the strength of this supposition pursue a foe which they had already vanquished and totally annihilated.

With respect to confirmed cases of lues venerea the most expert are often left to grope in the dark, as if this path of science had been intentionally obscured, in order that the devotees of Venus should be severely punished for their illicit amours. However, great improvements have lately been made in the treatment of this insidious disease, which can now be divested of many of its terrors, under the care of enlightened practitioners.

With regard to the cure of Syphilis, or a confirmed pox, it will be scarcely necessary for me to observe, that when the patient is of a scorbutic diathesis, mercury ought not to

be used until the habit has been ameliorated; yet in very urgent cases when the symptoms of scurvy are only trifling, remedies suitable for each complaint may with propriety be prescribed: as antiseptic and analeptic medicines and diet, will cure the scurvy, at the same time the mercury is arresting the progress of the venereal. But I must again beg leave to observe, that it is only in cases where scorbutic symptoms are not very prevalent, that such practice is admissible.

In beginning a course of mercury, it is necessary to caution the patient against every excess, whether from eating, drinking, or any of the other non-naturals, the body should be kept warm, and in the winter season, flannel should always be worn next the person. If he be robust and of a full habit a brisk calomel purgative or two ought to be given, and the tide of humours kept in their proper channels by a diet more spare than that which he has

been accustomed to. On the other hand, when the patient is of a thin impoverished state of body, and debilitated withal, instead of evacuants, a most generous nutritious diet is to be most strictly enjoined, and religiously adhered to, on the part of the patient. I believe persons of the latter idiosyncrasy, are more susceptible of infection, more violently affected, and in general require a much smaller quantity of mercury to effect a cure, than those who are of a contrary temperament: for mercury is poison to an irritable habit. A drachm of the strong ointment may be rubbed in every night before a fire in cold weather, but prior to the commencement of the frictions the warm bath may be advantageously employed for the purpose of cleansing the skin, and opening the perspiratory vessels. The inunctions are to be continued sometimes on the inside of the leg, at other times on the thigh; occasionally changing the side, as troublesome pimples frequently arise,

when the skin has been much irritated, either from the nature of the unguent, or friction.

Some patients will bear a large quantity of the ointment without displaying any visible or perceptible effects in the frame, whilst others will be affected with ptyalism, when only a few drachms have been expended. As soon as the breath becomes offensive, and there is in the morning a copperish taste in the mouth, with an increased secretion of saliva, we know that the system is impregnated with the antidote. And when in addition to those sensations a sense of fulness about the mouth is perceived by the patient, together with a slight soreness of the gums, exhibiting a puffy or swelled appearance on examination, the mercury is to be discontinued for some time, until the symptoms subside. His diet should be easy of digestion, fat meats, raw vegetable matters and acids are to be avoided, and the state of the bowels and skin particulary attended to, as there is great sym-

pathy existing between them. Purging will defeat your intention in performing a safe and speedy cure, which must be suppressed by the use of opiates and sudorifics. As an obstructed perspiration is most usually the cause, flannel and confinement to a temperate atmosphere, must be attended to. I conceive a moderate share of good living to be absolutely requisite, during a mercurial course; a little good bodied wine, with mild ale or porter, there can be no objection to. Night air is to be avoided, yet when the weather is fine, exercise in moderation, either from riding or walking will be serviceable. Too much care cannot be taken to avoid catching cold during the cure, and the want of prudence in this respect has been severely felt, even for years! The inunctions are to be persevered in, in such a manner and in such proportions, as are requisite to keep up some degree of action on the mouth, without producing salivation, a name which should long ago have been buried in oblivion. That every

part of the system must be under the action and influence of the mercury, when the mouth has been sometime affected can not be doubted; but the precise time to discontinue its use, is a point not easily ascertained, for herein the most skilful may commit an error in judgment. A person taking every minute circumstance into serious consideration, relative to the duration and violence of the disease, together with the nature of the habit of body, and mode of life which his patient has pursued, cannot err very widely. On taking a review of the effects of the mercury, whether obstacles have occurred through indiscretions, or accidents from cold, carrying it off by the bowels; if to these reflections, be added practical skill and acumen of perception, any mistake that he may accidentally fall into, will be speedily rectified.

I have observed that patients ill of confirmed lues find their health improved and their sufferings alleviated, when the mercury begins to act

on the system, and when continued a certain time, so as to keep up a slight soreness of the mouth, by way of convincing us that the remedy pervades every part of the body, many of the complaints vanish, whilst others remain in statu quo, and not unfrequently become *worse*. When this is the case, it appears to be time to desist from its further use; more especially if langour, debility and night sweats commence. Should this opinion be founded on truth, it would appear that more attention ought to be paid to the feelings of the patient, than the unfavourable aspect of certain remaining local complaints; that are continued from diseased action, brought on by accumulated irritability, the natural consequence of the powerful excitement produced by the mercury. Many people imagine when there is a chance of erring, that it is adviseable to adhere to what they consider the safe side; thinking it best to push the mercury, fearing that the smallest relaxation may be productive of the most *terrible* con-

sequences, when in fact they have nothing to dread. For if the system have been well saturated with the antidote, why not lie by on their oars a little, and observe which way the tide sets, as there is now not much danger of verifying the old proverb, incidit in Scyllam qui vult vitare Charybdim provided the pilot has common skill. Should the patient become importunate, let the example of Hunter be imitated, by way of *a placebo,* give him a bread pill!

The only preparations of mercury which are requisite for the treatment of venereal disorders, appear to be the Ungt. Hydrarg. fort. Hydrargyrus Muriatus, Calomel, and Hydrarg. Nitratus Ruber. The Muriate of Quicksilver, I have often given internally, where the skin has been diseased, or fauces ulcerated, in conjunction with the frictions; when half a grain in 24 hours, will be sufficient, it may also be advantageously used as a gargle sweetened with honey. Calomel

fumigations as mentioned hereafter when treating on ulcers, have an excellent effect. Venereal excrescences remaining after a course of mercury are to be treated as local complaints, as well as nodes, exosostes or swellings of the bones, and caries.

Phymosis or a stricture over the point of the glans penis, preventing the retraction of the prepuce, from ulceration and inflammation, is a disease to which those men who have long and straight prepuces are peculiarly subject. Though the operation of slitting up the foreskin is frequently performed, there is great reason to suppose that the pain, disfiguration and other inconveniences attending it, might by a strict attention to cleanliness be often obviated : the point of a syringe should be introduced between the glans and prepuce, and an injection of luke warm water or milk and water thrown up several times in the day, and as there is for the most part, considerable

swelling of a puffy ædematous nature, with cuticular inflammation, I have found rags dipped in the cold saturnine lotion repeatedly applied, externally, answer much better than poulticing which many authors recommend; when poultices are made of Gowlard water and applied cold, they soon become warm; and act then much in the same way as a common bread and milk poultice would do; therefore the refrigerant plan with wet linen rags has every advantage, as they can be removed a thousand times a day if requisite. Luke warm water is recommended to be injected, because it cleans the parts better than cold water. It is necessary to introduce lint between the glans penis and foreskin, dipped in a weak solution of sublimate, after the inflammation begins to subside, for the purpose of preventing adhesion, and promoting cicatrization. If the glans be in danger of being destroyed from extensive ulceration the operation should be performed and the incision should be made on one side, to avoid the arte-

ries which run on the anterior or fore part of the prepuce: and when the chancres are exposed they are to be treated either with the mercurial solution, or as common ulcers: as the circumstances of the case may require, and the point of the penis is to be wrapped up in an emollient poultice. The prepuce is often so much thickened and contracted after every symptom of infection has vanished for months, as to render the operation necessary from the pain experienced in erection; and which I have many times relieved without *entirely* dividing it.

Paraphymosis may properly be termed strangulation of the glans, arising from the retraction of the prepuce, behind the corona glandis, either owing to inflammation of this part, or an enlargement of the glans; and as there is always a risk of mortification, no time is to be lost in removing the stricture. On these occasions I desire the patient to dip the glans,

only, into cold water and with his fingers to squeeze it so, as to force the extravasated blood into the corpus spongiosum urethræ, the patient is at the same time to pull the prepuce over the glans, by perseverance and renewing the cold water the reduction is often easily effected. If this cannot be done the scalpel is to be used and the incision carried sufficiently deep, to overcome the coarctation.

GONORRHŒA; OR CLAP.

The Clap is a disease characterized by a discharge of mucus from the urethra in males, and the vagina or labia pudendi of the fair sex; the first symptom is a titillation or itching about the seat of the lacunæ Morgagni, which is soon followed by a desire to make water, and a hot scalding sensation during its evacuation; hence the French have given the name of Chaude-pisse to this complaint. As this is a local ailment, and the system seldom or ever affected by it; no general treatment is requisite, in 99 cases out of 100. The discharge varies in colour, consistency, and quantity, according to the degree of stimulation, arising from the acrimony of the virus. The

most violent symptom attendant on this complaint is the Chordee, or pain stretching along the urethra from the frænum, accompanied with a contraction of the penis.

In the cure of Gonorrhœa three indications are to be attended to. 1st. To endeavour to remove the virulent matter. 2d. To sheath the urethra from its acrimony. 3d. To allay irritation and subdue inflammation. Nature her self has a great share in fulfilling the first indication, by an increased secretion from the urethra, which effort may be assisted through the means of drinking largely of lintseed tea, barley water, or any diluent. The second indication is answered by oily injections. The third by opiates, a spare diet and refrigerant medicines.

The regimen to be used in claps is the same as in every other stenic diseases, all spices, wines and liquors are to be avoided, with salted

and smoke dried meats; a vegetable and farinaceous diet when the chordee is violent should be strictly enjoined. A bolus containing five grains of calomel may be given at bed time, and worked off in the morning with a brisk saline purgative, which it will be seldom necessary to repeat, for frequent purging has been productive of the worst of consequences, by checking the running before the virus has been washed off, and thus causing strangury, swelled testicles, and absorption into the system. An injection of warm olive oil is very beneficial during the inflammatory stage, to which a little opium may be added. The following injection I consider very useful, as it has a twofold effect in sheathing the passage and destroying the infection.

℞. Olei Olivarum ℥ij.

Calomel ppt. ʒj. vel ℈iv m fiat injectio frequenter usurpanda.

Medical men are divided in their opinions,

respecting the propriety of the exhibition of nitre in Gonorrhœa; those who are averse to it, say it increases the ardor urinæ, from the salt which it imparts to it. However specious this opinion may be, I verily believe that its effects in this way, are very trifling; and when we take into consideration the powers of this medicine as a refrigerant and diuretic it will appear that our reasons for using it, are more cogent than those which can be advanced in favor of its rejection. The following formula will I believe generally be found useful.

℞ Pulv. Sal. Nitri. ℈i vel. ʒss
Gummi Arabici
Sacch. Albi. aa ʒj m. ft. Pulvis.

Quater de die sumendus ex cyatho aquæ hordei. As much depends upon the mode of using injections, in performing a speedy and successful cure, it may not be unprofitable to make a few remarks on this subject. The syringe employed may be constructed either of ivory or pewter, its point should be conical,

and sufficiently large to plug up the orifice of the urethra; the piston should be so closely adapted to the cylinder, as effectually to prevent regurgitation; yet it ought to move easily. As the seat of claps is often confined to the lacunæ situated in the inferior part of the urethra, about the frænum; and this point can be ascertained, the middle finger of the patient's left hand is to be applied on the rapha perinæi, to obliterate the passage, and prevent the injection from being thrown beyond this part, for there is reason to suspect that the virus has often been carried up to the mouths of the seminal excretory vessels, and there, produced from irritation, a swelling of the testicles. The operation of injecting should be neatly performed, and repeated eight times in the day, at the same time, care is to be taken not to distend the passage too much. The cure may be completed after the inflammatory symptoms have subsided, by the use of tonic and astringent injections; the Zincum Vitrio-

latum answers very well, one grain to one ounce of rose or common soft water, will be sufficiently strong at first; the strength may afterwards be augmented according to circumstances. The injections should be continued for several days after the running has ceased; neglecting this caution has been a mean of protracting the cure for weeks. Many practitioners are in the habit of administering mercury in this complaint, though daily experience convinces us that the most inveterate claps can be safely cured without it. Care must be taken not to use astringent injections during the inflammatory stage.

GONORRHÆA BENIGNA, OR GLEET.

IS a discharge of limpid matter or mucus, from the urethra, resembling the white of an egg. Gleets are frequently the remains of claps, arising from such as have been violent in their nature, or greatly neglected, and are occasioned by a relaxation or debility of the parts affected. The higher up the complaint is seated in the urethra, the more difficult they are to cure, and the more dangerous are the consequences, especially when strictures occur. We must distinguish gleets arising from relaxation, from those produced by an ulcer; in the latter case the nature of the discharge will not be

uniformly the same, it may occasionally be tinged with blood, or be of a darker hue, than that which is generally observed; a pain will be felt in some part of the passage, particularly after voiding the urine, the passing of a bougie will throw light on the subject: for when the point comes in contact with the sore, the patient will complain of being affected with more pain in this than any other part. We generally have recourse, both to local and general remedies, of the former a pretty strong solution of White Vitriol, or Cerussa Acetata, used as an injection, and closely followed up, will sometimes effect a cure; in cases of ulceration a solution of Sublimate is to be used. Should the symptoms indicate an affected system, which is always to be suspected when ulcers are present; mercury must be used as in lues venerea. In addition to injections, bougies are frequently useful, nay absolutely requisite; and before their introduction, the bladder should be evacuated; one of a small size may be made

choice of at first, and gradually increased with respect to magnitude, and the time which it is to remain in the urethra; after it has been used a few times, the patient will be able to wear it for several hours. The internal remedies besides mercury, just now mentioned, are Cinchona, Tinct. Ferri Muriati. Kino, Sanguis Draconis, Tincture of Cantharides, &c. Balsamics are often useful, such as Venice Turpentine and the Balsamus Copaivæ, to either of of which, the Elixir of Vitriol or the Vitriolic Acid combined with Aromatic Tincture will prove an agreeable and useful addition. I have observed good effects resulting from the use of cold water applied to the perinæum; cold bathing has also proved beneficial. Blisters have been applied to the perinæum. A diseased prostate gland is often the cause of a distressing gleet. After a mercurial course, the extract of Hemlock and Uva Ursi have been serviceable.

On Hernia Humoralis, improperly so called,

or Swelled Testicle. After a person labouring under a clap, has taken violent exercise, exposed himself, especially the part to a current of air, or has made use of improper injections, he is frequently seized with a swelling of one testicle, rarely of both, when the running partly or entirely ceases. The swelling is first observable in the epididymis and spermatic chord, which are firm and hard to the touch, the body of the testicle is at length affected, together with the scrotum, which becomes red and enlarged. In the cure of this complaint should pyrexial symptoms prevail, it will be necessary to bleed the patient; but when the parts in the first instance have been properly supported by a suspensorium scroti, the bowels evacuated by a brisk purgative, and rest enjoined, there will seldom be any necessity for the use of the lancet, The penis should be kept warm in order to recall the running, and for this purpose a warm poultice may be applied round it. Notwithstanding the use of the purge, suspensori-

um scroti and poultice, should inflammatory symptoms and enlargement of the testicle obtain, a lotion containing equal parts of vinegar and water, with a portion of aqua litharg. acet. is to be applied as cold as possible, by wetting linen rags in it, which are to be renewed as often as they become warm.

By confining the patient to bed and perseverance in the above remedies, I have never been disappointed in effecting a cure, with the occasional assistance of opium. It sometimes happens that after the inflammation has subsided, a degree of hardness and enlargement are left behind, in which cases emetics are very useful, and when they fail, mercurial inunctions should be resorted to.

OBSERVATIONS ON AMPUTATION.

THOUGH amputation may in many respects be considered the opprobrium of Surgery, more especially when the operation has been performed in consequence of mal-treatment in ulcers; yet it must be universally acknowledged that there is an absolute necessity for it, and that it becomes an act of duty as well as humanity, when limbs are shattered, torn and mangled in sea or land engagements; and by other casualties. The loss of a limb is a great privation, and an irreparable calamity, therefore the man who wantonly wields the bloody knife, for the sake of experience, or a vain display of his adroitness, is a human savage in

whose breast soft pity never dwelt. To particularize every case wherein it may be necessary to amputate, would carry me far beyond the limits of my intended work. I therefore only propose treating on the mode of performing the operation, and throwing out hints and observations resulting from experience.

Method of operating. There are two ways of operating, namely, by the flap, and double incision; the former is now entirely confined to the joints, the latter to any part of the members. If it be necessary to operate on the leg from an injury sustained by the foot or ankle joint, let not the advice which is to be found in many authors, and in a systematic one, be followed; of leaving *nine inches* of the limb from the knee joint, this is a great and irremediable inconvenience, as the poor man is obliged to carry behind him the remainder of a useless leg, which becomes a great impediment and constant eyesore. When the operation is

to be performed upon the thigh too much of the limb cannot be saved. In operating the presence of five or six people is requisite, after the patient has been placed on a table, and the limb properly secured by an assistant before him, sitting on a stool, or low chair, the compress is to be applied when operating on the thigh, upon its anterior and inner part, about three inches below Poupart's ligament immediately on the course of the femoral artery; (the usual compress is a linen roller made up as firm as possible) after which the strap of the tourniquet is to be passed round the limb, adjusting the distance of the buckle so as to cause the screw to be applied to the outer part of it. Having obtained the command of the circulation, by a firm and secure apposition of the instrument, the patient is to be firmly supported by assistants on each side of him, whose arms may be secured by passing them round their bodies, the other leg and thigh should be also held firm and drawn a little on one side, after

which the surgeon, if his assistant be not very expert, grasps the thigh with both his hands, and shews what degree of retraction he wishes to have made. The assistant then does the same and the surgeon takes up the knife, places himself on the outside of the limb, and makes the first incision through the integuments with a single sweep of the knife, or sometimes with two semicircular strokes, having only his eyes for his guidance; he then dissects a portion of the integuments either with the same knife or a scalpel (the latter I prefer) sufficient to cover the face of the stump, which he turns back, and the assistant secures either by his fingers, or what is better, a linen retractor; the surgeon then takes up the large knife, and cutting close to the reflected integuments (taking care not to wound or cut through the duplicature) divides the muscles *perpendicularly* down to the bone. He now separates the muscles from the bone, and applies a retractor, a leathern one is best when there are no iron ones, the perios-

tæum is next to be separated from the bone by the edge of the knife, after which the saw is to be applied, and the sawing is to be begun and finished by short strokes, as the bone is liable to be splintered, especially when it is nearly divided and the assistant does not pay sufficient attention to the proper elevation of the limb. Any remaining splinter is to be cautiously nipped off, and the edge of the bone should be *rounded* to prevent the soft parts from being injured, for the slightest asperity may protract the cure and greatly increase the sufferings of the patient; too much attention cannot be paid to this injunction.

The retractors being removed, the vessels are to be immediately secured, and the largest first, the femoral artery from its conspicuous size will readily be observed, which is to be taken up with the tenaculum being exceedingly careful not to include any of the cellular substance in the ligature. Whenever a nerve is

found close to the artery and it cannot be secured in a clean manner, they should be separated by the point of a scalpel, and the ligature is to embrace nothing save the coats of the vessel, otherwise convulsive twitchings of the limb, tetanus and a train of dangerous symptoms may take place; so that your success and the safety of the patient will very much hinge on the proper performance of this part of the operation. The principal artery being secured the rest are to be sought for by slackening the tourniquet, and wiping the stump with a wet sponge, when the blood will start from the arteries by jerks; the strength of the ligatures is to be proportioned to the size of the vessels, they are generally made of three, four, or more lengths of white thread, sometimes flat, and sometimes round, the former are the most proper for large arteries, and they should be waxed just before they are used. Some surgeons have the noose of the ligature hanging on the tenaculum ready to slip over

the end of the artery, but it can neither be secured so neatly, nor expeditiously in this manner, as when an assistant stands by with one in his hand, ready to pass behind the instrument, who should put the end of the threads twice through the noose, making a knot that will not slip called a surgeon's knot, which is to be drawn moderately tight, after which two single knots are to be tied for the better security. The ends of all the ligatures are to hang from that corner of the stump which they are most contiguous to. After the hæmorrhage is perfectly stopped, and the surface of the wound well cleansed, the tourniquet and compress are to be removed when the skin and muscles are to be well drawn down and a flannel or calico roller passed round the hips, and then down the thigh, sufficiently firm to prevent retraction, more especially if a sufficiency of covering should not have been saved, in which case, the roller is to be carried nearly to the end of the stump before the adhesive strips of

plaster are to be applied, which may be either laterally or perpendicularly, laying their ends upon the roller; taking great care to place the edges of the integuments neatly in contact, without the smallest puckering. Over the strips of sticking plaster a lint pledget thinly covered with cerat. lapid. calam. notched at its margin is to be next laid down, over which a large tow compress or cushion is to be placed, and these dressings are to be secured by cross pieces of linen, which the assistant holds by spreading out his fingers upon them, until the surgeon confines them by a few turns of the bandage, which is the common method of finishing the dressing. A considerable improvement may be made to it, for it is evident that the pressure by only carrying the roller round the limb cannot be equable, and as the use of the cross pieces is only to retain the dressings, the roller should be passed from the upper to the under part of the stump, and back again, until its front be completely covered, and the pressure made

upon the end is nearly equal to that on the sides. But in order to retain the roller upon the surface of the stump, one long or two short pins are to be put into it before it is turned either up or down, this will be found a very neat method, and will considerably expedite the cure. It frequently happens that either too much or too little of the integuments are left, when the former occurs the cicatrix is puckered and unseemly, the latter occurrence prolongs the cure and makes a bad stump.

Though I do not recollect any directions given by authors to obviate the above inconvenience, yet it may be easily remedied by measuring the circumference of the limb, one-third of which will be equal to its diameter or the face of the stump, therefore if the diameter be seven inches, three and a half of the integuments should be dissected, which when brought forward will exactly cover it. After

the great naval engagement at Copenhagen almost all the cases of amputation were placed under my care at Yarmouth Hospital, those operations which were performed by the modern surgeons were well executed and their patients soon recovered, but unfortunately for some of the poor fellows there were one or two surgeons of the old school, who either forgot to leave a sufficient covering, or neglected to apply the bandages sufficiently firm to prevent retraction, and their patients were received with sugar loaf stumps, the end of the muscles were perfectly uncovered, and the bones projected considerably. The cure was as might be expected very tedious, and before they were healed a cylindrical exfoliation took place of the whole of the protruding bone: I believe the cure was greatly expedited by drawing the skin down at every dressing, and retaining it with a firm and equable pressure of the roller, a practice which in similar cases, should always be pursued. The dressing being finished

the tourniquet is again to be applied loosely, and the compress under the strap on the course of the femoral artery, ready to suppress hœmorrhage should any occur. The patient is then put to bed, and to prevent the stump from being injured, it is placed upon a pillow and fastened to the bed having a hoop or cradle placed over it, to defend it from the weight of the bed clothes ; when an anodyne is administered and the patient left to rest with a trusty attendant who is to watch over him, and pay attention to the stump, tightening the tourniquet in case of bleeding. The after treatment is very simple when the cure is not interrupted by unfavourable symptoms, the dressings are generally removed in the course of three or four days and renewed in the same manner, and we sometimes find the cure nearly completed by the first intention.

Of the morbid consequences resulting from amputation. Hœmorrhage, spasm, inflamma-

tion and sometimes mortification are the principal morbid consequences of amputation, the first seldom occurs, when attention has been paid to the taking up of the vessels, the dressings are to be thrown off, and should the bleeding proceed from a large vessel it must be taken up with the tenaculum, when its mouth is not to be discovered and it is so far retracted within the muscles, that it cannot be laid hold on, the bleeding point is to be surrounded by a crooked needle, plunging its point a sufficient distance from the vessel to be enabled to form a circle, which may be completed at twice or thrice, afterwards by drawing the noose the hæmorrage ceases. Should the bleeding proceed from the whole surface by a general oozing which is not often the case, it may be covered with starch and secured by compresses and firm bandaging, or lint dipped in a solution of alum or an infusion of galls may be applied. Opium is the best remedy for spasms and starting of the stump. When great

inflammation takes place the antiphlogistic regimen is to be strictly observed; in order to encourage suppuration, fomentations and warm emollient cataplasms must be had recourse to, should the inflammation run on and gangrene be feared, the warm applications must be discontinued, and the refrigerating process most strenuously pursued. As there is always great danger in carrying the depleting plan too far, from the large surface exposed after sphacelus, and the excessive discharge which invariably ensues, I am of opinion that the digitalis may in all cases of active inflammation be most advantageously employed, and that much of the pabulum vitæ can by its aid be preserved. I have had lately under my care a man, who from a violent cold was seized with pneumonia, he was old, greatly enervated and had typhoid symptoms combined with it, and he without any inconveniency took in 24 hours, six grains of this powerful sedative, on the third day;

which reduced his pulse to 75, and cured the inflammation. For the treatment of sphacelus I refer you to the pages set apart on that subject.

In performing the operation on the leg, I have already observed that only as much of it should be left as is requisite for the formation of a rest for that side of the body. The circulation is commanded either by making pressure on the femoral or popliteal artery, the external incision ought to be made about five inches below the centre of the patella, in order that the insertion of the flexor muscles may be preserved. The steps of this operation correspond with that which I have already described, with the following exceptions, namely, the catiline is to be used to divide the interosseous parts, the position of the surgeon is to be on the inside instead of the outside of the member, that he may apply the saw to both the bones at once, and

divide them in the same position and place; the roller may be applied above the knee, and the dressing finished as before directed.

The directions already given will serve for amputation of the upper extremities, with this exception, that too much of either arm or fore-arm cannot be saved in order to preserve the use of the member.

Amputating at the Shoulder joint. The method of operating, which I mean here to describe, is very little known, and is probably chiefly confined to the circle of Mr. Vance's friends and acquaintances. Mr. V. is a Naval Surgeon of great respectability and ingenuity, who is as far as I know, the first surgeon that operated in the following manner; and to whom I am indebted for the information; he is at present one of the surgeons of Haslar Hospital, and has performed the operation two or three times in a most expeditious and suc-

cessful manner. The patient is placed in a chair, and has his arm preserved (when on) at a small distance from the body in a state of relaxation. being properly fixed and firmly supported by assistants, one of them behind him, and when the surgeon is ready, standing opposite to the member ; the assistant at the back of the patient stops the circulation in the limb, by pressure with his thumb on the artery, behind the clavicle as it passes over the first rib. The surgeon immediately with a strong scalpel, makes an incision on one side of the humerus beginning a little above the articulation, carrying the edge of the knife more in an horizontal than oblique direction towards the os humeri: a similar incision is made on the other side, and when they meet an obtuse point is formed. The figure of the flap somewhat resembles the human heart, with a broad base and round apex, when the side cuts are sufficiently deep, the flap is turned up by directing the edge of the scalpel upwards, which

is turned back, over the articulation to enable the surgeon to divide the capsular ligament, when with one sweep of the knife the inferior parts are divided, and the limb severed from the body in the twinkling of an eye, and the brachial artery immediately secured; the assistant then takes away his thumb in order to discover the remaining arteries, which being taken up, after cleaning the parts with a wet sponge, the flap is laid down and preserved in a proper position by sutures and sticking plaster, when the dressing is finished in the usual manner. The whole of the flap is formed from the deltoid muscle and the outer tendon of the Biceps Flexor Cubiti, which has its origin from the upper edge of the glenoid cavity of the scapula. This operation is manifestly very superior to that which has hitherto been performed, in being much more easily executed and less painful.

An instrument has been invented for making

pressure on the artery, but it appears that which is made with the finger or thumb is quite sufficient. The different steps of the operation are so arranged that the limb is removed at the moment the artery is divided which is of course instantly secured. The striking advantages and great desiderata of simplicity, neatness, and expedition of this operation, fully display its preeminent utility, and give it a decided preference over that mode which has hitherto been adopted.

OBSERVATIONS on LUXATIONS, &c.

THE joints are liable to a variety of injuries from external violence, such as contusions, sprains, partial and complete luxations. In contusions and sprains rest is to be strictly enjoined and inflammation guarded against which will always be more or less predominant, according to the idiosyncrasy of the patient or extent of the injury. If leeches can be procured they should constantly be used, and as it is often a difficult matter to get them to fix upon an inflamed part, I beg leave to point out a plan which I never knew fail, and by which any number may be instantaneously applied. Every medicament, greasy, or odorous matter, is to be carefully washed off with luke-warm

soap and water, after which a little milk and water is to be used to take the scent of the soap off, and the part is to be wiped dry and a little blood fresh drawn must be applied on those points where it is intended the leeches shall bite: a very good method of obtaining the blood is to tye the end of a finger up by means of a piece of tape or thread, wounding it with a lancet or needle. In cases of sprains and contusions, it is customary to apply cold poultices of vinegar and oatmeal, but I find that they are not half so serviceable as the refrigerating process with equal parts of acetum and aquæ litharg. comp. for the poultices confine the heat, whereas the linen cloths immersed in the lotion when properly renewed, have the power of abstracting it, and keeping the part constantly cool. The inflammation being subsided, tension and ecchymosis are most easily remedied by exciting the absorbents with spirituous and stimulant embrocations, such as Spiritus Vini Camphor. or Linimentum

Sapon. Enlargement from ædema, debility, and thickening of the ligaments, will be benefited by the application of calico rollers: affusions of cold water are often serviceable, as are also frictions.

A Luxation is in general easily discovered and is characterized by distortion, swelling and inability to perform the natural functions of the part: there is great dissimilarity observable in comparing the injured with its corresponding joint, and considerable pain. Our prognosis in these affections is to be formed from the duration of the luxation, its extent and the difficulty attending its reduction, which will be in a ratio proportionate to the distance, the head of the bone is propelled from its socket, and the time elapsed subsequently to the accident. If the luxation be partial the reduction is easily effected. An example or two of those cases which most frequently occur will be sufficient for my present purpose,

and the observations and practical remarks deduced therefrom will be applicable to every species of these affections. In the treatment, three indications are presented. The first is to reduce the luxation. The second to preserve the head of the bone in its natural position. The third to remedy the present morbid affection of the surrounding parts. A fourth may be added, to remove imperfection resulting from and consequent to the injury. The first indication will be most readily effected when the surgeon has sufficient anatomical knowledge to enable him to carry in his mind's eye the structure and relative situation of the parts, without which it is to be feared that the most correct directions will avail very little. A complete relaxation of all the muscles that in any manner affect the motion of the joint is requisite, and a firm position of its superior part; extension is then to be made, when it will frequently be necessary to make pressure upon that part of the bone which is most contiguous to the joint,

in such a direction as will most effectually remove its head from any projecting point of its socket during the time of extension, attention to this circumstance will greatly facilitate the reduction. The second indication is fulfilled by rest and the application of a roller. The third by the antiphlogistic treatment, and such local remedies as have already been recommended in cases of inflammation: when spasms and pain are violent æther and opium are the best medicines. The fourth, by the application of those means which are calculated to remove chronic pain and stiffness, such as warm stimulant embrocations, covering the part with flannel, and the use of the flesh brush.

LUXATION OF THE HUMERUS.

THIS luxation is more frequent than any other, and the head of the bone is for the most part forced downwards into the axilla, or under the pectoral muscle, the symptoms are pain, hollowness and retraction of the teguments on the anterior part of the shoulder, rendered conspicuous by the projection of the processus acromion scapulæ; and inability to elevate the arm. Our opinion is favourable unless from the time elapsed a new socket is formed, and the proper one filled up. In order to effect the reduction, the patient is to be seated in a chair having the arm bare, a long towel or piece of linen sufficiently strong

is to be placed over his chest, the ends of which are to be given to assistants standing behind him for the purpose of retaining him firmly in his seat, whilst the necessary extension is made on the humerus by a piece of linen half a yard wide, and long enough to enable three or four people to lay hold on each end after it has been fastened round the inferior part of the bone immediately above the condyles, by tying a single knot. Or what probably would answer a better purpose is an iron instrument so constructed as to embrace the arm closely, well padded with wool or cotton to protect the soft parts, having two, three or four loop holes projecting from its sides, through which pieces of rope might be passed, and the extension made in this manner. During the extension, the direction and force of which is to be regulated by the surgeon, whose business is to ascertain the true situation of the head of the bone, and who during the operation gives effect to the extension by forcing it up or down with his thumbs and fingers as the cir-

cumstances of the case and his own genius may suggest, having at the same time firm pressure made on the dorsum and acromion scapulæ. In this manner by perseverance combined with anatomical knowledge, a little force and few assistants, the bone will be replaced with ease and expedition. I could enumerate several instances of patients being under the hands of surgeons for many hours, enduring the greatest torture, when three times the number of assisttants have been employed, and force used more than was requisite; and after all the patient has been left in a much worse state than when they found him, who has obtained speedy relief by a more fortunate application.

A most robust muscular sailor was sent to Haslar some time ago in the predicament just now depicted, when Mr. Vance, myself, and three or four assistants without using any other means than those which our hands (independent of every other aid) afforded us by their appli-

cation to the limb itself, reduced it in less than five minutes. Many methods for the reduction of the humerus have been described by authors, such as suspending the patient on the step of a ladder by the affected arm, resting him on the axilla, laying him on the floor and pushing with the heel against a ball placed in the axilla, keeping the limb extended at the same time, &c. none of which I have ever had occasion to try. When fracture accompanies luxation, provided a sufficient length of the bone be left between the joint and fracture, to enable the surgeon to fix a purchase upon it, an attempt may be made at reduction, but the inferior part of the limb is to be preserved in a firm position, in an exact line with its upper part, corresponding with the direction of the extension, which will be a mean of preventing the muscles from being injured by the fractured ends of the bone.

DISCOURSE ON FRACTURES.

FRACTURES are divided into simple and compound, the former which I shall first mention, is a division or loss of continuity of a bone, the result of external violence. The diagnostic symptoms are tumefaction, inability in the patient to bear or rest upon the member, disfiguration, particularly when there is only one bone, as in the femur and humerus, a shortening of the limb, there is always a grating, crepitating sensation conveyed both to the patient and surgeon when the ends of the bone are brought into contact, and acted upon. Our prognosis in simple fracture is generally favourable, except the habit be tainted with lues venerea or scorbutus, or the

patient be old and debilitated, or the soft parts are much lacerated or bruised. The cure of fracture is effected by bringing the ends of the bone into contact, and by placing them in their natural position—By retaining them in that position.—By obviating the effects of morbid symptoms—By removing those imperfections which are the consequences of the injury, consisting in a derangement of the functions of the part. In order to reduce a fracture, the limb is to be as completely relaxed as possible, by keeping its joint in a state of flexion; a degree of extension is then to be made sufficient to enable the surgeon to effect a neat apposition of the ends of the bone, which will be best perceived by comparing the injured member with its fellow. To retain the fractured ends of the bone in their proper position we have recourse to bandages, splints and compresses, so applied that the pressure may be sufficient to secure the fracture without affecting the circulation of the limb. The morbid symptoms are

pain, tension, inflammation, &c. which we combat by general and local bleeding, purging, and by refrigerant lotions incessantly applied, until the temperature of the part be reduced to the standard of health, and by a low diet.

The imperfections consequent to fractures consist in stiffness, pain, and deformity, either from excess of callus, or accidents during the cure, causing either partial or total derangement in the apposition of the ends of the bone. The pain and stiffness being the natural consequences of confinement, from want of action, can only be remedied by time, friction with oleum pedis bovis and gentle exercise. Deformity from superabundance of callus will be obviated by pressure, and when the ends of the bone lie one upon another, the cementing callus may be broken, and a good cure performed by a proper attention to the position of the limb. Cases have often occurred wherein no union has taken place, which may be owing to a

constitutional defect, and which we are to endeavour to remove, by the administration of suitable medicines and regimen. Should these fail an incision is to be made upon the soft parts sufficiently large to enable the operator to saw a portion from the ends of the bone. I saw a case in the Westminster Hospital which was not cured by the above plan. There are only two fractures which require an extended position of the limb, and they are the Olecranon and Patella, I have known the former occur by a blow which a man received in playing at single sticks.

FRACTURE OF THE LEG.

WHEN only one bone is broken particularly the fibula, the mischief is not at all times very easily discovered, when both bones are fractured, it is sufficiently obvious at first sight. To effect the reduction the patient must be in bed having his knee bent ; a pillow is to be placed under the limb having broad tape or strips of linen spread out above and below it, long enough to surround the leg, upon the upper tapes a splint of wood reaching from the knee joint to a little below the ankle is to be placed, lined with tow or linen, and completely soaked in equal parts of Acetum and Aqua Litharg. Acet. comp. over the splint, the

many-tailed bandage is to be laid, after which lying on his back a little inclined to one side, having his head and shoulders elevated, and the muscles relaxed by bending his knee, a firm hold is to be taken of the superior and inferior parts of the member, when the necessary extension must be made, by which the divided bones are replaced in their proper position, and if there be no soft part intervening the patient feels immediate relief. Should he complain of great pain when the bones apparently are in their natural position, the extension is to be continued and so managed as to displace any intervening substance. The limb is still to be held firm and somewhat on the stretch, until the surgeon and his assistant apply the bandage, which should extend from the knee to the ankle, beginning at the latter, the tails are to be applied in contact with the leg except at the place of the fracture where thin tow compresses or pieces of linen should be laid, wet in the lotion by way of a defence or

cushion which will contain a quantity of the refrigerant lotion, on the point where it is most wanted. Prior to the application of the splints a circular roller must be applied round the foot, beginning at the toes, this precaution though absolutely requisite is frequently neglected; its utility is unquestionably very great, and is an improvement which many surgeons have no idea of, they visit their patient daily and find an amazingly swelled and ædematous foot, so much so, that nature unassisted is often compelled to relieve herself, by committing violence on the part in rupturing the lymphatics. The lower splint is now brought into contact with the external part of the leg, extending from above the head of the fibula to the inferior part of the malleolus externus, but it it evident from the shape of the limb and splint that the latter cannot be exactly adapted to it, therefore the interstice is to be filled up with wet compresses, after which the upper splint must be laid down in the same manner, extending

from a little below the head of the tibia to the malleolus internus, when they are to be secured by bringing the ends of the tape or linen lying upon the pillow on the uppermost splint, and then tying slip knots. The ends of the splints should be stuffed with tow, the pillow fastened to the bed, and finally the tapes under it must be so far tightened, as to elevate its sides a little round the leg, so as to preserve it in its original position : the last slip knots ought to be tied on one side of the first set, for the sake of distinction. The patient has now an anodyne administered and is left to rest, leaving directions with his nurse to keep wetting the limb with the refrigerant lotion.

Many surgeons are in the habit of laying the splints under the bandage, but I prefer the method already described, as I then have it in my power to place them in their proper position in case they should be moved out of their place, which often happens, without dis-

turbing the fracture. I have known simple fractures do very well when the circular roller was used, it should be 5 or 6 yards in length if intended for the leg, and is to be applied from the toes to the knee, laying the splints on the outside of part of the roller, and afterwards encircling them with the remainder of it, by as many turns as are necessary to secure them.

FRACTURE OF THE THIGH,

THIS is the most difficult fracture to manage in the whole body, and what surgeon is there who in the course of his practice has not witnessed the most unpleasant consequences resulting from it? such as irremediable deformity and lasting lameness, occasioned by the ends of the bones passing each other, which is attributed to the strong muscular action of this member, and which I shall endeavour to prove is not the real cause of this evil. I will also shew the reason why the foot, knee joint, and inside of the thigh, are so much turned out and distorted. And lastly I shall do myself the pleasure of pointing out a more successful mode of treating the malady, which I have

experienced in the treatment of two cases which lately came under my care.

Method of Reduction. The patient is to be laid on the centre of a bed or mattress, the bedstead being boarded, or previously well corded; having his head and shoulders elevated, lying on his back with a pillow under the fractured thigh, covered with the many-tailed bandage, the tapes being arranged as for a fracture of the leg. But instead of laying the leg and thigh down on their outside, and turning the foot out, the latter is to be preserved in that posture which is natural to the patient, that is to say, should he be in the habit of turning his toes in, the same position is to be attended to. The extension is to be made by grasping the thigh above and below the fracture, the person making the extension below, should grasp the condyles of the femur, whilst another person holds the leg, elevates the knee, and keeps it in a state of flexion with the heel of

the patient resting on the bed, and the toes pointed upwards. The fracture being reduced a linen cloth dipped in the refrigerant lotion of three inches wide should be wrapped round the fracture, three or four times, the bandage is then to be applied beginning at the knee, and carrying it as high up as possible; and now, instead of only applying two splints, one on the outside and the other on the inside of the thigh; extending from the trochanter major, to below the knee; and from the groin to the inner condyle of the femur, I apply one also above, and another below the thigh, by which means it is supported equally on all sides. The splints are to be retained by strips of linen or broad tape. The hip and knee joints are to be kept in a complete state of flexion, to relax the muscles, the knee forming an angle at a considerable distance from the bed, which space is to be filled up with pillows, so that the whole thigh is supported in this manner; and the leg, by resting upon the ends of these cushions and

the point of the heel. A roller is afterwards to be passed round the leg, beginning at the toes, and carrying it up to the knee, the under tapes are now to be brought round the thigh, inclosing it partly in the pillow, which must be fastened to the bed; the after treatment is the same as that recommended for the leg. The method generally adopted of laying the leg and thigh on their sides, does not relax all the muscles, consequently those which are extended will from their efforts to obtain ease, act upon the fracture, and occasion derangement, pulling the superior from the inferior part of the bone. I imagine that the psoas magnus, iliacus internus, triceps, pyriformis, quadratus femoris, obturator internus, and externus, muscles, do in some measure by their agency, produce deformity. The femur being the axis of the leg, it follows of course that the leg, foot and inferior portion of the fractured femur will remain in the position in which they are originally placed; provided an exact union does not take

place. Therefore if the upper portion of bone be drawn out of the direct line with that which is below, in any direction whatever; the whole of the inferior extremity must remain in its first and natural posture, which clearly evinces the propriety of that position, which I have recommended; for when the leg and lower part of the thigh, are placed on their outside, the least deviation of the union from a right direction, will cause that disfiguration which is so often met with, obliging the patient to carry the inside of his leg and ankle before him, instead of his shin and toes. So that you plainly perceive when the leg and foot are placed as I have directed, they will inevitably remain in statu quo, independently of any accident whatsoever happening to the superior portion of the femur, because when the union does take place, every part below it will necessarily preserve the direction which it was originally placed in. The chances in favor of the upper part of the femur remaining in contact

with the lower, are very great when the whole extremity is placed in a state of relaxation, which it can never be in the usual method of treatment, when the forementioned muscles are acted on, and the patient presses more upon the trochanter major (a projecting point) and superior part of the thigh, than the inferior. Thus I hope that I have most satisfactorily proved whatever I have said on this subject to be the result of practice, founded on the firm basis of truth, having reason and science for its supporters.

In the proposed plan the whole of the pressure rests upon the glutei muscles and sacrum, the most proper parts to sustain the weight of the patient. The momentum of the body is quite removed from the thigh by its elevated position.

Machines may easily be invented for the security of the limb, but there is certainly a disadvantage attending their use, as you cannot

so readily adjust any derangement which may take place in the splints or bandages; and fractures have been observed to be most neatly cured without their aid, when the patient is well attended.

I must observe that the bandage should be passed more firmly round the fractured part than any other, particularly when there is reason to suspect an oblique division of the bone, and I am of opinion that the limb should be firmly incased with splints, taking care that their edges do not come into contact, in order that the pressure may be close, firm and equable; when the circular roller on the leg and foot will most effectually obviate any morbid consequences arising from it, by assisting the circulation in the lymphatics. By placing the splints outside of the bandage, you can always command a sufficient degree of tightness should the latter become slack, by tying the ends of the tapes afresh, which I consider

as an object of great moment. The space of a month at least, should elapse before the re-adjustment or total removal of the dressings, without any accident renders it requisite; when they are to be applied as before, and renewed once a fortnight.

ON COMPOUND FRACTURES.

A WOUND of the integuments conjoined with a division of the bone, whether it be simply exposed, or violently pushed through the soft parts, constitutes what we denominate compound fracture, which is an accident of such an alarming and dangerous tendency, as to require the surgeon to be in possession of the first rate abilities. Laying down rules for the guidance of his conduct, in the treatment of such cases, is a task I am fearful too arduous to be executed, as so much must necessarily be left for his own genius to effect, from the peculiar circumstances and phenomena attendant on them. Our prognosis is formed from the extent of the

injury, and the force with which it was inflicted, when from gunshot, and the muscular and deep seated parts are lacerated, and spicula are driven into the limb, I have no hesitation in saying that the safest and perhaps only plan which can be adopted, with the smallest probability of success, will be to amputate immediately. The necessity for this step will be more urgent when there is much hæmorrhage. Should the læsion be superficial, only affecting the tibia and its covering, there is great hope of performing a cure. If the surgeon from the great destruction of the bones and soft parts, let the accident arise from whatsoever cause it may, should deem amputation to be requisite, not a moment is to be lost, he should depict in the most lively and vivid manner to the patient, the imminent danger which threatens him, stating that dreadful inflammation in the space of twenty-four hours would take place, when the limb could not be removed with any hopes of a cure. And

that inflammation would most likely terminate in mortification, which, though his constitution might be sufficiently strong to resist and cast off, the chances were much against such a termination, and that, should the sloughing be effected and his body preserved from the absorption of putrid virus, with which he would in all probability be completely poisoned; the discharge from so extensive a surface, might cause him to sink into the arms of death, after suffering the greatest misery which could fall to the lot of humanity.

However I must remark, that the most surprising cures have been performed especially in the days of childhood and of blooming youth, when the powers of nature appear to be unbounded; and when her facility in removing morbid parts, is not less conspicuous than the power she displays in her reproductive operations. This is a period of life, from

which we have every thing to expect, when the fibres are lax and yielding, and unsusceptible of that violent action, which in more advanced age so frequently proves destructive.

TREATMENT OF COMPOUND FRACTURES.

THE first thing to be attended to is hæmorrhage, when we suspect from the quantity, that an artery is divided a tourniquet is to be immediately applied, and the vessel taken up, if in sight; if not, an incision is to be made on its course, sufficiently large to enable one to lay hold of it without much embarrasment, should this be found impracticable, and the limb is injected with blood, amputation is our only resource. The next point demanding attention is the bone, which sometimes protrudes so far, and is so jammed that reduction cannot be effected by our ordinary endeavours at relaxation, and extension, these failing; an

incision through the parts supposed to be the cause of the obstacle is to be made, being still foiled in our endeavours after trying every method that patience and prudence can suggest, we are reduced to the necessity of sawing off the protruded bone, in doing which the parts below must be protected by the intervention of pasteboard or folds of linen rag. Splinters are to be most cautiously searched for by the point of the index, for the finger is the best probe; every foreign body being removed and spicula nipped off by the bone pincers, when they form a part of the bone and there is a chance of their injuring the soft parts. We then wash the coagulated blood away with a sponge and warm water when it can be procured, and after the fracture is reduced, and the wound dressed with a pledget of lint covered with cerate, the same position being observed which is recommended in cases of simple fracture, the limb is to be placed upon a pillow covered with oil cloth to preserve the

bed from the discharge, rollers, many-tailed bandages, compresses, &c. are to be placed in the same manner as above directed, after which an anodyne is to be given and the patient kept as quiet as possible. The wound is to be dressed as often as the warmth of the season and the quantity of the discharge render it requisite; cleanliness cannot be too strictly enjoined, we labour under a great disadvantage by being reduced to the necessity of loosening the bandage at every dressing. Inflammation is to be guarded against, by keeping the body open, by avoiding every thing stimulating, by a strict observance of the antiphlogistic regimen, by covering the patient lightly with bed clothes, by preserving the limb from their pressure through the aid of a hoop or cradle placed over it, by frequent application of the refrigerant lotion, which should not have any vinegar in its composition, as it would irritate the wound, by general and local bleeding, and by all the means recommended

in cases of sthenic diathesis. Emollient and warm poultices may sometimes be requisite for the purpose of promoting suppuration, and casting off the sloughs, but care must be taken to discontinue them, when the inflammation increases during their use; under these circumstances refrigeration and local bleeding are chiefly to be depended on. Should sphacelus in spite of every precaution take place, the treatment recommended under that head is to be resorted to, no idea of amputation is to be entertained until the sphacelated parts are separated from the sound, and digestion comes on, even then, if the loss of substance be not so great as to render the destruction of the limb certain, the best plan will be to endeavour to effect a cure, by throwing in plenty of nutriment, and by relying more on diet than the internal administration of medicine, which is only to be considered as a secondary adjuvant. If the stomach can be kept in order, and a

sufficient quantity of nutriment taken in, our hopes will be animating.

Gentle tonics such as the Tinctura Cinchonæ diluted with water, and acidulated with Elixir of Vitriol or the Decoctum, acidulated in the same way, will prove useful auxiliaries. The apartment should be well ventilated, and no matter is to be allowed to stagnate on the limb, or any thing about it. Ripe fruit, generous port, mild ale or porter, and every thing restorative and agreeable to the stomach, may be given very liberally. Thus you will often when the constitution is good, be fortunate enough to see your patient conquer the host of evils that assailed him.

If the bone be divested of its periosteum, an exfoliation will take place, but prior to this, the bone will assume a dirty yellowish aspect, indicative of its diseased state, when its surface should be perforated in different places for

the purpose of expediting the separation of the dead from the living part. When the granulations are exuberant their growth should be suppressed by pressure and astringent applications, if pressure can not be conveniently made, escharotics may be used, for the cure can never be effected until the exfoliation be complete, and if the bone be covered with granulations, it is no easy matter to disengage it. Upon the whole it will evidently appear that the primary and most urgent symptoms originate in inflammation, but as general bleeding and other modes of depletion to that extent which the symptoms seem to indicate, might eventually depauperate the body so much, as to endanger the patient; recourse must be had to those local and other remedies, which have so often been mentioned, and which have the power of abstracting heat and allaying the tumultous vascular action consequent to irritation.

ON SCALDS AND BURNS.

ON the treatment of scalds and burns there seems to have been great diversity of opinion, if one may be allowed to judge from the different modes of cure which have been adopted by medical practitioners. The Oleum Lini sine igne was formerly in high repute and generally speaking, had, and still is allowed to have, by many, the precedence as a remedy; in recent cases some mix with it Aqua Litharg, Acetata, Aqua Calcis, &c. Vinegar used to be in high estimation at Edinburgh. All of these and many other applications I have seen tried, but as far as my observation leads me, they are not nearly so beneficial as the plan which I have been accustomed to adopt, and I may

say most successfully, if speedy relief from pain, and a quick and easy cure, are desiderata claiming the attention either of the patient or medical attendant. I have read and heard much of the superior power and efficacy of Oleum Terebinthinæ, but I never could prevail upon myself to use it until the other day, when a fair opportunity offered of judging whether it or Aqua Frigida were the most eligible. The latter I have always used, and the following history will point out the manner how, and give the reader some idea of the comparative merits of the respective remedies. A man had both his feet scalded and the ankle and superior part of one of the feet was almost completely vesicated, whereas the injury sustained by the other did not occupy one-third of the space; therefore to give the Oleum Terebin an impartial trial, I directed my assistant to apply it to the foot which was least scalded, and the Aqua Frigida to the other, leaving the entire management to him, that

prejudice might not have the smallest influence on my mind. Lint well soaked in the Oleum Terebin, was laid over the part, previously opening the vesications, and as fast as it evaporated more was poured upon the lint until the patient no longer complained of pain, when it was dressed with Unguentum Risinæ flavæ diluted with the Oleum Terebin. The foot so much scalded was plunged into a bucket full of cold water, and when it became necessary to renew the water the patient complained of pain until it was replunged into the refrigerating medium, which always gave him immediate relief. In case the nature of the accident does not admit of applying cold in this manner, it is to be done by means of wet rags. Thus the foot was kept in the cold water until the heat was extracted, after which the blisters were snipped to allow the serum to run off, and the part was dressed with the common digestive ointment, but as the slough did not separate so soon as was wished, emollient poul-

tices were applied, they produced a great discharge and their weight and heat occasioned considerable pain, therefore they were discontinued, and the suppurative process was left to nature and the aid of the digestive ointment. The eschar was thrown off the large scald sooner than the small one, and was not so thick, which I shall endeavour to account for in the sequel.

Notwithstanding the difference in point of the magnitude of the scalds, yet that foot which had the Aqua Frigida applied to it, was healed as quick as the other, and more so, as a greater space was cicatrized, in a given time, and though this foot had been stripped of its cuticle and part of its cutis vera to three times the extent of the other, it was only two days longer under cure. I have to remark, that when the visicles are completely laid open, the process of cicatrization is greatly retarded, and that if others shall find the eschars thicker after the use of Oleum Terebinthinæ than that of water

I suppose it is caused by the stimulant effect of the former, which continues to act until the vitality of the part be quite destroyed. Whereas the effect of the water is to check the destructive career of excessive stimulation, and by degrees to restore healthy action to those parts whose remaining organization, is not entirely ruined by the effects of excessive heat. Whether this be the true solution of the question or not, it is the most rational that offers to my conception. I therefore leave the point for further elucidation, and on which future experiments may decide.

It appears very mysterious, that remedies diametrically opposite should produce similar effects, and prove equally successful in curing any disease. In the north of England, and particularly at Newcastle upon Tyne I am informed, the stimulant or Dr. Kentish's plan, has unbounded confidence placed in it, where in order to add to the power of the remedy it is

previously to being applied, made warm; again I have understood that the London practitioners have not found it successful. I must own for my own part that I am very well satisfied with Aqua Frigida, having performed a number of expeditious cures with it. External stimulation is not sufficient, the abettors of this practice have recourse to internal stimuli, by way of a balance to the system, making their practice subservient to Darwin's reversed sympathy! What man can convince me that after any person has been brought to the gangway or halberts, and received a fierce flogging, this wholesome discipline should be continued to expedite a cure? Indeed theory looks well on paper, but we are not to be so biassed with it as to reject the salutary hints of nature, reason and practice.

Should future experience prove that Oleum Terebinthinæ is entitled to the encomiums which have been bestowed upon it, it will not

cost much trouble to overthrow the present theory of its action, which is said to be supported by the doctrines of two great medical luminaries Brown and Darwin; but I am persuaded those who assert that the ideas of the former are in unison with theirs, labour under a gross mistake, for he says, "Because cold "is so efficacious a remedy in the small-pox, it "clearly follows that the use of cold should be "extended to the whole range of predisposi-"tion, the whole circle of diseases depending "upon sthenic diathesis." Therefore I suppose no one will be mad enough to assert when active inflammation exists, according to the above quotation, that hot applications are preferable to cold. From these premises I have no hesitation in again asserting that if the stimulant plan (as it has been denominated) be as successful as has been represented, those who speak in its favour are still ignorant of its modus operandi, which I may at some more convenient season, and in a more appropriate

place, endeavour to prove, should future experience induce me to alter my present mode of practice. After the vesication of an extensive surface, and the discharge is great it will certainly be proper to support the strength of the patient by throwing in nutrientia and cordials; if the pulse be low and the patient affected with rigors, internal stimulation by Opium, Æther, or Brandy, will be absolutely requisite. Cicatrization will be greatly expedited in extensive scalds, and the stamina preserved by sprinkling the Creta præparata upon the parts when the eschar is cast off, and every where, as long as the discharge continues. A common tin box having its cover perforated with a number of small holes, or such as are used in cooking, will answer extremely well; after this, pledgets of lint or fine linen spread over with Cerat. Lapidis Calaminaris, should be applied.

ON THE EFFECTS OF COLD ON THE HUMAN BODY.

IN the former part of this work, when treating on Typhus, I observed that I should take an opportunity of making some remarks on the nature of cold, which many medical philosophers have treated on, But the information to be derived from their writings on this subject, is in my opinion very trifling; the cause of this is their having considered cold as possessing a positive instead of a negative quality, with regard to its action on the body. Cullen says cold is always more or less directly sedative; but it is equally manifest that in certain circumstances, cold proves a sti-

mulant to the living body, and particularly to the sanguiferous system. This account of it, is both inconsistent and unsatisfactory. Brown's opinion is that it always acts as a debilitating power. Cold agreebly to my conception may be said to have a two-fold effect, for its action on the human body must depend upon the mode of its application, and will be modified according to the temperature of the body. For instance cold is always grateful to a person when oppressed with heat, giving vigour to the relaxed frame; in this case it acts as a tonic. Its action is diametrically opposite when the body is cold and circulation languid; and proves the source of a variety of diseases. In this instance it debilitates. So that to assert cold is positively and invariably either sedative, stimulant or debilitating, does not appear to me to convey a correct notion of its real properties and effects. Let us suppose that the heat of the body in a state of good health is 95, if cold should be

applied to reduce it to 60, the constitution will suffer in proportion to the time of its application and susceptibility of the body. On the other hand we shall suppose that the heat rises to 100; and the application of the cold reduces it to the healthy standard of 95; it is evident that in the one instance it will produce debilitating in the other tonic effects.

ON ULCERS.

IN this essay on Ulcers, I shall divide them into three distinct species, namely, Ulcera e casibus vel communia, common ulcers arising from casualties, which most commonly affect the Tibia. Ulcera e scrofula from a scrofulous taint which indiscriminately attack every part of the body. Ulcera e Lue Venerea or Venereal Ulcers, from the deposition or application of that virus. I might add Ulcera e Scorbuto, but as these are acquired by accident, either prior or subsequent to a Scorbutic diathesis, I propose treating on them under the head of common ulcers.

It is a lamentable fact and much to be re-

gretted that the cure of ulcers is not well understood by practitioners in general, which is the more astonishing, as it is extremely simple. In private practice there is not one medical person in ten who knows any thing about it, and in the public service, if it were as well known as it ought to be, our hospitals would not so frequently be crowded with patients of this description; for my own part, I have been many years in the navy, and some in private practice, yet I never had occasion to send one to an hospital. Cast your eyes around you, and you will discover objects of misery in every part of the United Kingdoms, both rich and poor, who have suffered for years; nay, the greatest part of their lives, after having even consulted men who have been reputed clever members of the profession. A vulgar error has crept abroad, much indeed to the detriment of society, that healing such sores is attended with the most dangerous and fatal consequences, producing pains of the stomach,

dyspepsia, &c. There are medical men who as a cover for their ignorance have availed themselves of this language of *charlatanerie*, when they have found their efforts to cure ulcers unavailing.

The fact is, that all the unpleasant symptoms so much dreaded, talked of, and so ill understood, do really affect the patient during the time that the ulcers are open, and the cause of this, is no mystery. The irritation of the whole system, accruing from sores, renders the patient so extremely susceptible, and alive to such impressions, as would not in circumstances of an ordinary good state of health, have produced any visible effect. Besides, absorption must, and very often does take place, in ulcers that are not kept clean; hence arises that swarthy, pallid, bombicinous countenance, which marks the looks of such people; hence also, those stomachic complaints, and that debility, the never failing result of neglected,

old and ill conditioned sores. My practice has fully and evidently demonstrated the fallacy of the above foolish notions, and the propriety of losing no time in cicatrizing ulcers which occasion the evils I have just now mentioned. I have healed ulcers of twenty years standing, and instead of suffering the host of evils which some of their sapient medical and other acquaintances had predicted, they were contrary to their gloomy expectations, restored to a state of health, which they had long been strangers to, the comfort of which was greatly enhanced, from its not having been expected. Such has invariably been the happy consequence of every case which has been treated by me. The principal and most necessary thing to be well understood is the application of the circular or common roller, which should always be made of calico, flannel is too thick, and occasions too much heat, linen is neither so soft nor elastic as calico, and consequently cannot be so well applied. It is not easy to lay

down rules for the correct application, as it is an art which practice can alone perfect you in, it may be necessary to premise, that the bandage must be proportioned to the size and length of the limb, its breadth should be about two inches and an half, four yards in length will be sufficient for a moderate sized leg, the application must be commenced at or near the toes, placing the end of the roller obliquely across the arch of the tarsus, so that it may be well secured by the turns round the foot, after it has been passed as far as the calf of the leg, it should be carried in a spiral direction round the gastrocnemii muscles, nearly as far as the caput fibulæ; where you are to surround the limb, gradually approaching downwards to the small part of the leg; where you first discontinued the circular turns, in order to apply the bandage in an even and equable manner, which may be done if the calf be not very large, by giving it a turn, which I feel difficult to describe; but in my opinion, the way which I have already

pointed out, is the best, and the end of the roller should be secured by three pins, one in the centre, and one at each end. The dressing which I would recommend is the Emplastrum Commune cum Resina, or the adhesive plaster spread upon linen, strips of which are to be applied of a width proportionate to the magnitude of the ulcer, and instead of passing them round the whole of the limb, which is often done; in general, applying them immediately over the face of the sore, including about a couple of inches of the sound parts, on each side will be all that is requisite, taking care to contract the sore by means of extending your thumb and forefinger, placing one end of the plaster under the former, pushing the integuments up on this side, and on the other drawing them up with the latter, until both ends of the strip are firmly laid down, repeating the same process with other strips, so as to cover the whole of the ulcer. Upon this is to be laid a compress of tow or linen rag, when the edges

are not callous, but the linen will answer better when they are. After which the whole limb and dressings are to be firmly secured with the roller, in the manner already described. When there is any inflammation surrounding the ulcer, the compress should be completely wetted with cold water, which must several times in the course of the day be poured upon the part from the spout of a tea-pot, whenever soreness or uneasiness is felt. I do not mean that the dressings are to be removed every time the water is applied, for it is to be poured on the roller, which, with the compress should be completely wetted through, continuing the cold application until the disagreeable sensation of heat, itching, or smarting of the parts be entirely removed. If ulcers were treated in the above manner by plentiful affusions of aqua frigida, many a limb would be saved. I am sorry to observe that an assistant of mine who lately left one of our public seminaries, told me, he never saw the above plan adopted,

ulcers were dressed with strips of adhesive plaster it is true, but when inflammation took place instead of abstracting redundant heat by the water, the dressings were thrown off, and additional heat applied from poultices.

Escharotics are still used by men who are ignorant of the effects of compresses, I have not for several years used these irritating noxious applications, what has been vulgarly denominated fungous excrescence, and callosity, is most easily and effectually got rid of, without unnecessarily torturing your patient by a practice so vile, as to better merit the appellation of infernal, than the stone which bears this name, in some of our ci-devant dispensatories. Once a day will generally suffice for dressing ulcers, when there is a great secretion on the surface, and the weather is warm, it is necessary to wash them occasionally, and this may be done by water or milk and water of the temperature of milk from the cow, as it will

cleanse the parts better than cold water, the surrounding skin may be rubbed with the sponge employed for this purpose, but the granulations should not be rubbed at all.

Patients generally complain after the application of the roller for the first two or three times, but this is soon relieved by the cold affusion, and ulcers in the most highly irritable state, in a few days, will bear handling without occasioning the slightest pain. If the edges be high, or granulations exuberant, they will soon sink to their proper level, and the cicatrizing process will go on rapidly, provided that the pressure be made firm and equable. If there be any difference it ought to be firmer below, than above. Such is the treatment which has always succeeded with me in common cases, without having recourse to dietetic or medicinal auxiliaries.

Whenever a scorbutic or scrofulous taint is

present in the habit, these and other diseases will characterize the ulcer, and give it the distinguishing criteria of the predominant diathesis, be it, what it may.

The most formidable and fatal that we have to combat with, is the Ulcus Gangrenosum or Hospital Gangrene, where one ulcer is sufficiently deleterious to infect all that are in the hospital, when a sore however small it may be, will in a few days spread far and wide, endangering both the limb, and existence of the patient. When circumstances will admit of it, the patients should be immediately separated, and placed in different wards, if this cannot be effected cleanliness and free ventilation must be particularly attended to, no two ulcers should be washed either with the same sponge, water, or bucket. Fumigation with the mineral acids will be of service. I have been lately told that nitre externally applied has done great good, lint dipped in a solution of it may

be used as a dressing. This idea was taken from my papers in the Medical and Physical Journal, concerning the successful application of nitre in cases of sphacelus. The Cinchona, Succus Limonum, Wine and Porter should be given in liberal quantities, and affusions of cold water in which a little of the Cerussa Acetata may be dissolved, must be applied frequently, until the temperature of the part be reduced to the healthy standard.

ON SCROFULOUS ULCERS.

SCROFULOUS Ulcers are distinguished by their loose, flabby, and sometimes pallid appearance, their edges are often unconnected with the sore, having sinuses running in various directions, the poor and labouring part of the community are most subject to this disease, and as it originates in debility, and is often occasioned by food which affords little nutriment, the proper mode of cure is very obvious, and consists in the administration of tonics and a nutritious diet, for the purpose of ameliorating the habit of body. The treatment of the ulcers is also equally simple, every greasy and relaxing application must be most religiously avoided; the sticking plaster, compresses, and tight

rollers are the things, which can alone be depended on, with the assistance of Aqua Frigida, sea bathing when the stamina is well supported will prove a useful auxiliary. When these sores are on parts where it is not convenient to apply a bandage, tonics, and astringents, such as solutions of Zincum Vitriolatum, or Cerussa Acetata, must be used by moistening lint with them, which is to be secured by strips of plaster. A female Lazarus whose legs had been so bad for many years, as not to be able to get over the threshold of her door, made application to me whilst I was in private practice for relief, a cure was not to be expected; she was poor and eat up with scrofula, but in the course of a few weeks, she was by the above method restored to the use of her legs with nearly the whole of the ulcers healed, and again made her appearance in the streets much to the astonishment of her neighbours.

The disgusting scars remaining after the healing of these ulcers, about the neck and face,

may very easily be obviated by not suffering the tumors to advance so far in a state of suppuration, as they generally do in the hands of a set of men, who have no opinion of their own, and who bow with blind acquiescence to the opinions of some authors, whose plagiarism is a more prominent feature in their works, than their personal experience.

As soon as I find a certain degree of fluctuation in these tumors I plunge the point of a spear pointed lancet into the inferior and most depending part of the swelling, and by drawing my finger over it, evacuate its contents; after this a small piece of lint is introduced to preserve the opening, and elicit the future discharge, secured by sticking plaster.

It is evident that by this mean the integuments are not so stretched as to become wrinkled, nor to have their colour altered, and how often is the eye of the spectator ar-

rested by those blue, puckered, unseemly cicatrices, when the matter has been spontaneously evacuated by the destruction of the skin, or when the puncture of the lancet has been too long deferred. The obviousness of the superiority of the method which I have pointed out, must appear to every unprejudiced mind, in the most clear point of view, its advantages are not only confined to the subsequent appearances which are of themselves of the highest importance, both to the male, and female, more particularly the latter, but the ulcer under the sound and natural coloured skin is easily healed, and the puncture of the lancet so small, as in a short time not to be discovered.

By pursuing the plan which I have pointed out, you will combine an elegant and successful practice, with the inestimable advantages of preserving beauty! How often has that face which once had power to rivet the eyes of every

beholder, been so marred, scared and disfigured by this disease, as to excite sensations of apathy, bordering on disgust!

People of a scrofulous diathesis should live well, and avoid tea drinking and vegetable matters, confining themselves chiefly to animal food, mild malt liquor, and a glass of generous wine, taking such medicines as will give tone and vigour to the system.

ON SCORBUTIC ULCERS.

THE Scorbutic Ulcer as I have previously observed, is to be considered as a common sore assuming an appearance peculiar to this species of diathesis, whose surface is covered with a brown fur, attended with a sanious oozing of a dark coloured fluid. Before this ulcer can be cured, dietetic and medicinal means must be resorted to; and of the latter, such remedies as have been hitherto denominated antiseptic, must be liberally administered. The Succus Limonis is the most powerful antiscorbutic, that we know of, but the alteration of the habit should not be entirely trusted to it; the most nutritious food, and such as requires little digestion should be preferred, for instance, chicken soup

strong beef tea, eggs lightly boiled or beat up raw, with wine, sugar, and water, will greatly facilitate your views: when bark is given which will always prove an useful auxiliary, that preparation which sits most easily on the stomach should have the preference, bark in substance does not merit the encomiums that have been so lavishly and indiscreetly bestowed upon it, whenever the process of disgestion is disturbed by it, and the patient loaths his food, you must instantly desist. I never knew the decoction or tincture acidulated with vitriolic acid produce any such effects, as the powder generally does. The dressings recommended for common ulcer, will succeed in this, and before the crasis of the blood has been so far affected, as to produce a total alteration of diathesis, the sores will put on a healthy appearance, from the tone and vigour, imparted by the bandaging, &c.

ON VENEREAL ULCERS.

THOSE ulcers which arise on the genitals are denominated Chancres, those which make their appearance on any other part of the body, are called Venereal Ulcers. These ulcers are occasioned in two ways, either from an impure connexion, or by a deposition from an infected mass of humors on the surface of the body. The parts which are most frequently affected are the prepuce, glans penis, urethra labia pudendi, nymphæ, lips, mouth, throat, and nipples. Though we generally find that, parts covered with a thin cuticle, are most liable to be affected, yet the scrotum, perinæum, thighs, and the hands of accoucheurs are often affected.

Those chancres which take their rise from coition, are properly termed primary or local, the others are general and always require a course of mercury, whereas the local if taken in time, are easily cured, by topical applications. The Argentum Nitratum is an excellent remedy, but in irritable habits it sometimes induces a high degree of inflammation, in which cases I always found affusions of cold water prevent its ill effects, or what will still answer better, is dipping the head of the penis in very cold water. The dressing which I always use after the caustic, is a piece of dry lint which absorbs the moisture on the part, and prevents it from injuring adjoining parts by washing off the application.

I never use in these cases, any greasy medicaments, but complete the cure by a lotion of Hydrargyrus Muriatus made with $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ of a grain to one ounce of water, which is applied by soaking lint in it twice or thrice a day,

taking care to have the parts well washed and cleansed from every impurity, at each dressing. This last application I have a very high opinion of, and have repeatedly cured chancres with it, unaided by any other remedy. Sprinkling the parts affected, with Hydrargyrus Nitratus Ruber finely pulverized, has often a very excellent effect.

I have cured ulcerations of the throat by Calomel fumigations from a red-hot brick, throwing a blanket over the patient, even before the disease was removed from the habit : using at the same time a gargle composed of a solution of the Muriate of Quicksilver, the quantity of Calomel thrown on the hot brick was half a drachm twice a day. I have to observe that the most dreadful consequences have been the result of treating ulcerations of the fauces, as venereal, when they have arisen from the effects of mercury on these parts. Venereal ulcers are not so well defined, as to enable at all times, the

most experienced, to pronounce with certainty that they are venereal or that others are not of that cast, therefore when a prognosis has been formed, by maturely weighing every circumstance relative to the case in question, a few days will determine the truth or fallacy of your opinion; should the constitution have already been supersaturated with mercury, and you are still persevering in its use, every symptom will become aggravated: and vice versa, should you not have been administering the remedy, when your patient's case required it, the same untoward effects will occur from your mistake. It is my intention in another place to treat more largely on this subject, under the head of Lues Venerea.

I have known the spirit of wine cure an obstinate chancre. Should mercurial applications fail in producing a cure, astringents must be resorted to, such as solutions of Cerussa Acetata, Zincum Vitriolatum, or Cuprum Vitriolatum:

and in conjunction with these remedies, internal ones should be had recourse to; such as bark, steel and wine: the dietetic part of the regimen should be strictly observed, for a rich nourishing diet, country air and sea bathing have often effected a cure, after the usual plans have proved abortive. When venereal ulcers are extensive, and the habit irritable, opium has been of great service, and I must here remark, that this excellent medicine should, in order to do the good which we expect from it, be given in pretty large doses. I am apprehensive that many practitioners are extremely timid in their use of it. In order to cure ulcers of the vagina or uterus, the syringes in common use cannot be trusted to; they should be made of the elastic gum, and have large pipes fitted to them, with a number of holes in their points which ought to be of a spherical form; the quantity injected should be large and sufficient to distend the parts, so as to obliterate the rugæ, and during the operation, the party

should observe a recumbent position, having herself somewhat elevated a posteriori, keeping the injection in for some minutes, and always repeating the operation twice at least, being careful to retain it each time as long as the circumstances of the case seem to require it. The injection should be repeated six times every day. The ingenious Mr. Dawson of Sunderland, having invented a sponge pessary in a case of prolapsus uteri, which had the happiest effects; suggests to my mind the propriety of plugging up the vagina with it moistened with a solution of Hydrargyrus Muriatus, or such lotion as may be deemed expedient. Ulcers in the groins or other parts of the body are to be treated as simple ulcers with sticking plaster, rollers, &c. when the constitution has been saturated with mercury.

ON GUN-SHOT WOUNDS.

THE treatment of gun-shot wounds is a subject of great importance and well merits the serious attention of the faculty : and in a peculiar manner that of the younger branches of the profession who intend dedicating their early years to the service of their country, which during war never fails to present a wide field for improvement, whether their views are directed to the navy or army. The deprivation and sacrifices of numberless comforts will be fully compensated by the opportunities they will have, of giving the finishing stroke to their education, if extensive experience can add any thing to therapeutic and prophylactic skill. It is greatly to be lamented

that most of the authors who have written on this subject never saw a shot fired in anger; and from their want of personal experience are very inadequate to the task they have assumed of giving lessons of instruction on topics the most serious and important, for such they must ever be considered, where the lives of British heroes are in the hands of men, whose ideas of treatment have been borrowed from those productions. Would not the tear of sorrow and the heart-rending sigh burst forth, if we were told that a Wolfe, an Abercrombie, or a Nelson! was lost to their country from maltreatment? Then how careful the student ought to be in his choice of authors. The limits of this book will not allow me to expatiate so much on this subject as I could wish, I therefore shall endeavour to concentrate my ideas, and exhibit them as they have been associated from practical experience, in attempting to point out to the young surgeon that plan of treatment which experience teaches is

most likely to crown his endeavours with success. To think of laying down rules which are never to be deviated from, would be the most consummate folly and presumption, for much remaineth to be done by the ingenuity and prompt decision of the surgeon.

The wounds of a naval engagement are generally from cannon shot, and consequently much more dreadful, than those of the musket; and often in proportion to the extent of the wound may the danger be estimated. The men who nearly compose the aggregate of a ship's company are from their peculiar modes and habits of life, such as cannot boast of the best of constitutions; and many of them are tainted with the scurvy, a disease which formerly made great havock in the service; but the liberality of government has for years provided a remedy (lemon juice) which has nearly eradicated this scourge of sailors.

Then the treatment of a wounded seaman is briefly this, which may in almost every case be applicable to a soldier. In flesh wounds or when there is only a loss of muscular substance, the wound must be well cleaned with a sponge moistened with water, the hæmorrhage stopped if issuing from a large vessel; and the tourniquet must be applied and properly managed, until the vessel is taken up, which is to be done by the tenaculum or forceps, taking care not to include any of the cellular membrane with which it is surrounded. If it cannot be secured in this manner a needle must be passed round it, armed with a ligature, including as little of the surrounding parts as possible. The ligatures generally employed are composed of common sewing thread evenly and well manufactured, their size should be proportioned to that of the artery, when they are made of a flat form by means of wax which should always be used, they will require to be pulled more firmly than those which are

round, the end of the ligature should be passed twice through the noose before you begin to close it : this part of the operation should be intrusted to a skilful assistant or the surgeon may desire him to lay hold of the tenaculum and tie the knots himself, taking care after the first double one is made, to tie two single ones separately, leaving a sufficient length of it to hang from the most convenient part of the wound. Your success in saving the life of your patient and performing a speedy cure, will greatly depend upon your dexterity in securing the vessels, which I shall elucidate by relating to you the case of a man wounded at the battle of Copenhagen who was placed under my care at Yarmouth Hospital, together with nearly the whole of those who had lost their limbs at the same time. This person had his arm amputated at the insertion of the deltoid muscle, the operation appeared to have been performed in a very proper manner, so much so, that the face of the stump was completely

covered with the integuments and at the time he was received it was nearly cicatrized. That part where the brachial artery hung from, being still open, proved a source of great distress to the patient, for every time it was touched with a view of disengaging it, the sensation arising from a slight pull, somewhat resembled an electrical shock, which clearly evinced that a nerve had been included in the ligature, and it nearly cost the patient his life, for violent inflammation took place, pervading the whole of the stump, extending itself to the breast, axilla, and back. As suppuration was the only thing that could be depended upon for producing a separation of the ligature, the parts were wrapped up with emollient cataplasms, and by the aid of fomentations it terminated in this manner, but the discharge was so profuse, that had he not been well supported with beef tea, wine, porter, decoct. cinchonæ, &c. he must have sunk under it. It is surprizing how this man escaped a locked jaw, but so

various and inexplicable are the springs which actuate nature, that the prognosis of the most skilful is often erroneous.

Should the bleeding flow from every point of the wound, you may suspect that your patient is of a scorbutic diathesis that the crassamentum of the blood is broke down by this or some other disease. Here I must caution you against the folly of trusting to styptics, the ligature and compress are the only true styptics. In this case you are to cover the wound with lint, and by graduated tow compresses and rollers secure it, taking care not to remove the dressings until it begins to suppurate. In such a case the inflammation will be purely local, and a generous regimen must be resorted to immediately; for in these cases where there is a great loss of substance, the discharge is always profuse; and if your patient's strength is not kept up, by strong soups, jellies, and such things as will restore lost sta-

mina, he will sink into a low nervous fever and die. In such a case I must caution you against giving the bark in substance, for those gentlemen who have been so profuse in their encomiums on this *drug* in this state, have much to answer for. If the surgeon be not blinded by prejudice, he will discover his patient losing his appetite, and becoming more and more debilitated every hour, whilst he is pouring in huge potations of this ne plus ultra medicine. Believe me, more is to be done by diet. Then in these cases make up your mind never to give it, except in decoction; a little of the tincture may be added, and the mixture acidulated with Acidum Vitriolicum. Such medicine given in moderation will assist the digestive powers; but the bark in substance clogs up the stomach, checks the secretion of the gastric juice, and totally unhinges it, rendering all its efforts to convert the food into chyme useless and abortive. The stomach is an organ endued with such sensibility that it always sympathizes

with the injuries which the body sustains; and to give bark in substance, under such circumstances, is productive of a train of symptoms the most distressing, namely, pyrexia, vomiting, &c. Such symptoms may occasionally arise from the injury itself, but I am fully convinced, they are most frequently the effects of this highly irritating drug. In flesh wounds bleeding is seldom necessary, and is generally productive of the worst of evils, for it often happens that men in action are quite exhausted from loss of blood, before the surgeon can attend to them, a well directed broadside makes so much havock, that a third of the wounded die from loss of blood. Allowing that a man should lose very little blood, before his wounds were secured, if they were extensive, the discharge from them during the cure would reduce him too much, even admitting that every thing nourishing and good was at his command, which is not always the case. So you perceive how absolutely requisite it will be for you to

guard against bleeding, or any other evacuation that may tend to debilitate your patient, for local inflammation will generally yield to topical applications, such as emollient cataplasms and fomentations, for *suppuration* must be promoted in order to throw off the sloughy disorganized parts.

It frequently happens that the skin takes on a diseased action, assuming an erysipelatous appearance, at the time the wound is discharging very profusely; in such a case cold applications to the surrounding inflammation will be proper, namely, a weak solution of Cerussa Acetata, renewing rags dipped in it as often as they grow warm. By this means the temperature of the part will be reduced, and the patient relieved from considerable pain, the natural concomitant of inflammation. The best diet when the patient is sinking under profuse gleetings is animal food, in the shape of jellies, for the stomach should be distressed as little as

possible by the process of digestion. If sufficient nutriment cannot be conveyed into the system in this manner it may be thrown into the intestines per anum, with a few drops of laudanum for the purpose of retaining the injections. Many a valuable life has been saved in this manner. When the granulations have arrived at the point where bleeding and fungous flesh make their appearance, the pressure of the roller and compresses should be increased, which will greatly facilitate the healing process, and enable you to cicatrize the wound without having recourse to escharotics, so frequently used by the surgeons of the old school. When the sloughs have been separated, and the granulations look florid and healthy, the poultices are to be discontinued, and the wound dressed with unguentum resinæ flavæ, or ceratum lapidis calaminaris spread upon lint, it is often necessary to dress with dry lint when the discharge is great, but when lint is used a tow pledget covered with any ointment should be

applied over the lint, and a compress of tow above that. When a musket ball is lodged in any of the limbs it must be extracted with the bullet forceps, if this cannot be conveniently done, owing to some alteration in its direction, provided it can be felt externally, an incision should be made on the parts sufficiently large to admit the forceps, with which it is to be disengaged. If it be lodged in the neighbourhood of any large vessel, and no unpleasant symptom supervenes, the business may be left to nature: many a ball has found a bed for itself, where it has remained during the life of the person. A piece of cloth or any extraneous body carried in by the ball must if possible be extracted, otherwise it will prove a source of great mischief. In these wounds there is always a sloughing of the whole of the internal surface, and the whole limb should be surrounded with a warm and emollient poultice to promote its separation. With respect to wounds of the hands, feet and limbs, accompanied with frac-

ture and splintered bones, it is highly requisite for you to be possessed of intrepidity tempered with coolness; for what you decide upon must be executed without delay; and you will be careful never to amputate without circumstances render it absolutely requisite. Every surgeon possessed of anatomical knowledge can quickly determine, if you find the nerves and tendons injured the muscles much lacerated, and spicula drove into the very heart of a limb, with or without much hæmorrhage. In such a case, amputate immediately; and here permit me to remark, that your forefinger will make the best probe, for you must use it, to ascertain with precision the extent of the injury.

In wounds of less magnitude, when there is a probability of saving the limb, by using your forefinger and thumb, you will be enabled to pick away every particle of bone, for the smallest atom, if felt, must not be left behind. And you must recollect that this is your only time

for cleansing the wound from every foreign body; to leave any thing unfinished now, and attempt it when inflammation and tension have taken place, would be extremely cruel, and subject your patient to inexpressible torture. It will be frequently necessary for you to use a knife in detaching splinters, and if you cannot disengage them without enlarging the wound, do it boldly; it is better that you should risk dividing an artery than to lose your patient by trismus, which is often occasioned through the irritation of splinters. Wounds of this description often mortify; you may say if there be any likelihood of such an occurrence it will be most prudent always to amputate. Such reasoning is erroneous; it is a common thing for stumps to become sphacelous, an evil originating sometimes from crowding the wounded together, and frequently from a cachetic state of the body, independent of external causes. Therefore when this occurs, very little judgment will determine whether a large or small surface

is most likely to terminate favorably, and in this dilemma, it affords me infinite pleasure to be enabled to direct you to the choice of a medicine, which merits the highest encomiums, namely *Nitre* finely pulverized, sprinkled all over the part in a state of sphacelus, completely covering it at every dressing; which will as surely stop its progress as mercury will that of the lues venerea. And if the fætor be ever so disagreeable, it will in the space of twelve hours entirely subdue it. You must not neglect to wash the part with vinegar and Decoct. Cinchonæ or any other antiseptic wash. administering the decoction internally, with Port wine, supporting the strength with strong jellies as directed above. When a limb is carried away with a shot or splinter, you must go through the regular plan of amputation, performing your operation at a distance from the wound, sufficient for the purpose of leaving integuments to cover the face of the stump. If the limb be too much shortened to admit of the ordinary method of performing the operation

of amputation, the flap operation of the hip or shoulder must be performed. A marine who had his arm torn off with a cannon-shot, at the battle of Copenhagen, near the shoulder, was placed under my care at the Naval Hospital in Yarmouth, the surgeon of the ship he belonged to, having many men wounded, and being in want of assistants (which I am sorry to say is too often the case in the Navy) was constrained to content himself by securing the vessels, and dressing it up in the same state, in which he was received into the cockpit. It soon became from the retraction of the muscles and integuments, a complete sugar-loaf stump; and his cure bore some resemblance to a resurrection, for he had to contend with every dangerous and unpleasant symptom, and was reduced to a mere skeleton by the discharge! During the cure he was seized with tetanus and trismus, and laboured under these complaints longer than ever I knew any man in such a state. The wound was dressed with lint dipped in lauda-

num, opium and æther were prescribed liberally and the cure perfected by Decoctum Cinchonæ, Wine, Porter, and an analeptic regimen. But not until an exfoliation of nearly the whole of the bone came away. It is worthy of remark that generally speaking, all the operations of the surgeons in that engagement (of our unconquerable and ever to be lamented Nelson) were well performed, though in a cockpit, with candle light; and would have done honour to any one on shore, with the advantage of day light, and plenty of assistants, unannoyed with the cries of the wounded, din of battle, and roaring of cannon. But there was one exception, and this old surgeon being probably nervous, forgetting to keep an eye on the edge of his knife, and not saving a sufficiency of integuments, some of his patients were detained in the hospital three, four, or five months longer than the rest, on account of exfoliations.

When there is not a sufficient covering left

for the bone, the cure will be greatly expedited by using tight rollers, which prevent retraction. This practice has been well exemplified, in many cases that have come under my eye. The appearance of the countenance will greatly assist you in forming your prognosis, if the patient be of a florid clear healthy aspect, you may augur favorably of the result: but if he be of a swarthy sallow cadaverous aspect, your hopes will not be animating. Such patients will bear a greater quantity of wine than the former, for whose recovery, ale, or porter, will prove conducive.

When circumstances admit of it, take care to keep the wounded at a considerable distance from each other; and if any of the stumps or wounds look flabby or ill conditioned, do your utmost to obtain their removal, and total separation from the rest, for the poisonous effluvia, emanating from a single patient, may infect the whole; therefore the good of the

poor sufferers, as well as a regard for your own reputation, will stimulate you to exert every nerve in their behalf.

Fumigating the apartments of the wounded, wherever there are a number collected together with nitrous vapours, according to Dr. Carmichael Smyth's plan, is of infinite service, in correcting fætor, and subduing contagion.

Wounds of the Thorax and Abdomen require a very different treatment, the antiphlogistic regimen must be strictly observed, you are to use the lancet freely according to the urgency of the symptoms. Though these wounds often prove fatal, you are never to despair of success. Many instances of recovery from balls perforating the lungs can be adduced, some of which I have witnessed myself.

I have often thought that the Tinct. Digitalis, a medicine which stands high in my

estimation might in a great measure supersede the necessity of bleeding so profusely in these cases; if given in sufficient quantities it will check the impetus of the blood, by lessening arterial action, and thereby give the ruptured vessels and lungs, an opportunity of healing, without impoverishing the body so much, as is generally done. I have experienced its good effects in pulmonary inflammations arising from other causes, and doubt not of its efficacy in cases where similar symptoms originate from wounds.

Wounds of the joints are always dangerous, and when the capsular ligament is perforated, and the heads of the bones fractured or otherwise injured, the safest plan will be to amputate, as inflammation in these cases runs high, producing extensive suppuration which in the end destroys the whole fabric of the part, only permitting the patient to linger out for a few weeks or months a miserable existence. The

loss of a limb must ever be considered a great deprivation, and when the injury received does not appear very extensive, the intreaties of the patient prevail upon the surgeon to attempt the cure, the latter sympathizes with him and from a supposition that there is a chance of a favourable issue, he remains passive, but seldom has the happiness of bringing him off, even with an anchylosed joint. Bleeding has been carried to great lengths in such cases and I believe great mischief has been done by erring, on what may be considered the safe side; for local inflammation will more readily be subdued by means of leeches, and the cold saturnine application. How often do we perceive marks of inflammation when the pulse is weak and feeble, when the flesh is wasted and strength exhausted?

In wounds inflicted by the sabre, the blood must be sponged entirely away, and the sides laid in close contact. When the retraction is

great, which is generally the case in transverse cuts, the needle and ligature should be used; but in longitudinal wounds the sticking plaster is to be applied and before its application a strip of lint doubled, laid along the whole course of the cut will be of service, in absorbing that oozing which always takes place, and which otherwise would prevent the plaster from retaining the edges in contact; these dressings are to be covered by a soft tow compress, and the whole secured by a circular roller. In the space of three or four days should inflammation come on an oily warm poultice must be applied for the purpose of taking off tension and promoting suppuration. There are two points of practice which I have now to notice, namely the propriety, and impropriety, of making incisions on the orifices of musket-shot wounds, and of passing setons through them. With respect to the latter I am firmly of opinion that they ought never to

be used, without it be for the sake of removing a splinter, piece of cloth, or other extraneous body, as they invariably occasion great torture and inflammation.

It is absolutely requisite to dilate the mouths of these wounds, when there is a bleeding artery to secure, or spicula to extract; and the dilatation must be sufficiently large to enable you to finish your work, with expedition and facility to yourself and patient. These incisions are frequently (independent of the present considerations) attended with the most beneficial consequences, in preventing that tension which sometimes occurs in the fascia from inflammation; but I do not think that all such wounds should be dilated; without it is for the purposes above specified, as simple flesh wounds unattended with hæmorrhage or fracture often do well without putting the patient to the pain of making an additional wound,

when there is a probability that the healing process will go on favorably; for it is easily done, should circumstances point out the necessity, with one stroke of the scalpel; and the incision must be carried sufficiently deep to overcome the stricture.

OBSERVATIONS ON AMPUTATION.

THAT propensity which some men have evinced, for lopping off limbs, cannot be too much deprecated, yet it must be allowed by all who are acquainted with the horrors of war, that naval and military surgeons are compelled to use the knife more frequently, than they otherwise would, could they avail themselves of that rest and comfort for their patients, which would alone afford a happy termination to their sufferings. Indeed the task of laying down rules for the guidance of their conduct in this respect, would be too difficult for human sagacity to accomplish, therefore much must ever be left to their humanity, ingenuity, and the situations in which they may individually be placed.

ON TRISMUS OR LOCKED JAW.

TETANIC complaints have been, both by nosologists and practical writers divided into four species, viz. Opisthotonos, Emprosthotonos, Trismus and Tetanus, which last may properly be considered as the generic term including the three forementioned species, and the second of those might as well have been omitted, as in our days we never see a case of Emprosthotonos or a clonic spasm bending the head and trunk forward. Nor do I see how the Opisthotonos can be treated on as a separate and distinct species, for in all the cases that I have met with, this has been invariably conjoined with Trismus: I

therefore for my own part, can only suppose that they are diversified symptoms of the same disease, and when one is present, the other is always more or less predominant, according to the peculiar idiosyncrasy of the patient.

The causes of this disease are injuries done to the nerves whether they be occasioned by fracture or laceration, the action of cold has sometimes proved an exciting cause, and in both cases several days generally elapse before the attack commences. When it arises from a wound its approach is indicated by a creeping sensation along the affected limb extending by nervous communication to the throat producing rigidity of the muscles subservient to deglutition, and great difficulty of swallowing, which by degrees increases to such a pitch that the smallest quantity of any fluid, even a few drops, will endanger suffocation and excite the most painful sensations in the patient, causing him to foam at the mouth

and writhe himself into all the shapes that the spastic rigidity of the neck and back will allow.

At the commencement of Trismus, the masseter and temporal muscles are affected with stiffness, pain and spasm, which increase to such a degree, as completely to close the lower jaw and prevent the entrance of any thing, (however small it may be,) into the mouth.

I have only given a faint and imperfect sketch of this hideous and fatal disease, and indeed I feel myself at a loss to pourtray it in such language as might tend to convey a just notion of its extreme violence. Every muscle of the body when the disease is at its height, becomes affected, the limbs and trunk are stiff, and the abdomen feels as hard as a board, whilst convulsions attended with indescribable agony, agitate, at intervals the whole frame,

distorting the countenance, and covering it with a clammy, death-like, cold sweat. There is seldom any intellectual derangement, and when blood is drawn it rarely exhibits a buffy coat. It is remarkable that neither the secretions, excretions, nor any of the *natural* functions are materially affected.

Cure of Trismus. In the cure of tetanic complaints, the chief, and I had almost said the whole dependance, is to be placed on Opium, to which Æther may be advantageously conjoined. The quantity of Opium which people will bear in this disease will appear hardly credible to a person who never saw nor attended a case of Trismus. When there is a possibility of cutting off the communication between the wound and sensorium by a division of the nerve, it should always be attempted. Both the cold and warm bath have been used with various success, the former may answer a better purpose in a warm and tropical

clime than in a cold and polar region, more especially when the disease has been occasioned, or is continued through debility, when this is the case the stimulant and tonic plan of cure recommended by Dr. Rush and others may be very proper.

I have had five cases of Trismus under my care, and have been fortunate enough, under the blessings of Divine Providence, to cure four out of that number; the first case that occurred was on board the Hind Frigate, and was produced by the prick of a rusty nail, which passed between two of the metatarsal bones, an incision was made through the whole substance of the foot, dividing the interosseous muscles and parts above the puncture after Trismus had taken place by a turn of the edge of the knife, large quantities of opium were given, and as we were in a West India climate the cold bath was used, or rather affusions of cold water, this case is recorded in Dr. Trotter's

Medicina Nautica. The second case happened on board the St. George, a three decker, from a shattered foot occasioned by a cannon ball. The third took place at Yarmouth Hospital, subsequent to the battle of Copenhagen, and originated from a shattered shoulder stump, the wound was dressed with lint dipped in Laudanum, Opium and Æther were given in large doses, and latterly when debility took place, the decoction and tincture of Cinchona with wine, porter and a generous diet perfected the cure. The fourth occurred at Romsey, and was occasioned by a cart wheel passing over the head of a boy, there was a very extensive laceration of the scalp attended with considerable injury of the cranium, it was altogether a hopeless case and he died. The fifth, I shall give a detail of at full length, as extracted from my journal of His Majesty's Ship Pegasus, as it is the only instance of Trismus being excited from the effects of cold, that ever came under my care, which the patient had

got by keeping his clothes on too long, after getting wet with salt water.

George Perry, seaman, aged 25, on the 7th December, 1805, made application in the evening for relief from a sore throat, he was desired by my assistant to wrap flannel round his neck, and was directed to rub it externally with Aqua Ammoniæ. In the course of half an hour I was sent for, the messenger having told me that the patient was speechless and extremely ill. On visiting him I found him in his bed, moaning and apparently in great distress, he pointed to his throat, but on external examination there was not the slightest peternatural appearance, neither swelling of the submaxillary, parotid nor tonsillary glands, yet he shrunk from the touch, and exhibited the most evident demonstrations of exquisite pain, accompanied with a twitching or convulsive motion about the mouth, sometimes extending between the angula oris, and that of the lower jaw, without

any contortion. He was speechless and to my great astonishment I discovered that he was affected with Trismus, and that so complete as with the greatest difficulty to admit the shank of a table spoon, which was so violently acted upon as soon as it was introduced, as to deprive the edges of the dentes canini, and incisores on that side of their enamel, which broke off in a manner somewhat resembling the crackling of glass. He was perfectly sensible though he foamed at the mouth from agony. His skin was hot and dry to the touch, his pulse (the contractions of which I counted with the greatest accuracy from the second-hand of my watch) was no less than 150. Had the pulsation not been vibrating, firm and vigorous, I should have hesitated respecting the propriety of venesection, imagining that the frequency depended upon asthenia, however the result proves that this was not the case. He was bled to the amount of 16 ounces, and in the space of half an hour his pulse fell to

130, being softer though still firm. As there was considerable pyrexia I thought the Pulvis Ipecacuanhæ compositus, was the most likely medicine to promote a determination to the surface and relieve the Trismus from the opium which it contained. I therefore mixed a scruple of it with a little sugar, which I attempted to administer by placing part of it upon his teeth when he was in a decumbent posture, dropping water upon it, which by means of the exertions of the patient, and the interstices of the teeth gained admittance into his mouth, but so terribly were the muscles subservient to deglutition affected, that he was nearly suffocated before half of it was swallowed, yet by perseverance at different intervals, he took in the course of the night as much of the powder as contained about three grains of Opium. By way of allowing the patient some respite from his painful and suffocating exertions to swallow, I ordered the following enema:

℞. Pulv. Opii. gr. viij, (soluti. spiritûs vin. ope.)
Aquæ ferventis ℥viij M. ft. injectio et quamprimum injiciatur.

I suppose six grains out of the eight were injected, he was afterwards put into a warm bath where I detained him half an hour, and when he was wiped dry and put to bed his pulse was reduced to 120, but previously to his immersion a blister was applied ab aure ad aurem, and after having directed six grains of opium to be dissolved in spirit and dropped into his ears, he fell into a profound sleep and was left to the care of his nurses, who say that he slept pretty well. On the 8th his jaw was still locked but he was enabled to swallow four ounces of barley water, sweetened with coarse sugar, he could not articulate, but was in the entire possession of his senses, and his pulse had fallen to 96, having perspired very freely during the night. The same quantity of dis-

solved opium was again dropped into his ears, and a scruple of the Pulv. Ipec. Comp. was given in the course of the forenoon. Deglutition was exceedingly painful and his jaw still locked. A drachm of the following ointment was directed to be rubbed into his thighs bis de die.

Rj Ung^{t}. Hydrarg. fort. ℥j.
Pulveris Opii
——— Camphoræ aa ʒj M.
fiat unguntum. Through mistake three drachms of this ointment were rubbed in; during the afternoon he was enabled with great difficulty to swallow, at different times, and in very small quantities about a pint of beef soup, and could push the end of his tongue through, between his teeth. Repetantur, Pulveris Ipecac. comp. gr. xv. The warm bath was again had recourse to. On the 9th he slept nearly the whole of the night, and drank before the morning nearly a pint of barley water, I found him affected with some

degree of delirium, his pulse was 154, and he was restored to his speech, he was drowsy, and his sensorial derangement I imagine proceeded from the effects of the opium. He opened his mouth sufficiently wide to enable him to drink out of a bason which he effected with very little pain. Inunctiones omittantur et bibat aquam hordeatam ad libitum bene edulcoratam. His forehead and temples were kept cool with vinegar, about 11 A. M. his senses returned after which he fell asleep, and in the course of the day his pulse was reduced to 90. During the whole of his illness his loins and limbs were very painful, to-day I discovered that his tongue was much furred. Rj. Pulv. Antimonialis gr. xviij. Opii. Calomel aa gr. iij. M. ft. Pulvis. Divide in chartulas sex Capt. j. 4ta. q. h.

By persevering in these powders, the pyrexial symptoms disappeared, and with the use of tonics and a restorative regimen he was very

soon reinstated in good health. The remote cause of this man's complaint was certainly cold from keeping his clothes on too long, after having had them wet with salt water. He received a cut on the hand some days previously to his being seized with trismus, but it was very slight and was completely cicatrized several days before he was taken ill.

As he had none of the symptoms which preceded the disease from wounds, I am firmly of opinion that the remote cause of his disease was cold. I never read of dissolved opium being dropped into the ears in Trismus, and I am persuaded that it was in this instance of great service. The plan was suggested to my mind from an idea, that the nearer the opium was applied to the part affected, the more expeditious and successful its effects would prove; judging that the temporal and masseter muscles which appear to be chiefly concerned in locking the jaw, might have their

spasm taken off through the influence of the opium on the nerves of the ear, which have so extensive a communication with the parts affected in this complaint.

Dr. Blane who was Physician to the Fleet in the West Indies, in his Chirurgical Observations after the memorable naval action of the 12th of April, 1802, records three cases of Trismus which were successfully treated and these may be considered solitary instances of a happy termination, when so many were affected with it and died. His words are, " Only " three men in the whole fleet recovered from " this alarming complaint." My chief reason for quoting this author is to shew my readers that opium is the sheet anchor, the first case he states was cured by the warm bath and opium, of which he took from three to five grains in the day : but this quantity I must remark, will seldom be sufficient. The second recovery, one would imagine was effected by the prompt and

decisive conduct of Mr. Harris the Surgeon, who Dr. Blane observes : " now wisely determining to do something vigorous in this unpromising situation, beat up 12 ounces of opium, moistened to the consistence of a cataplasm with the Thebaic Tincture, and applied one half to each side of the jaw. The patient this day swallowed a pint of the bark decoction with half an ounce of nitre, and took a diaphoretic draught of 20 drops of thebaic tincture, and 30 of antimonial wine. He had also the smoke of tobacco thrown up his nostrils." He goes on stating that on the third day he opened his mouth half an inch, the opium poultice was re-applied, moistened afresh with laudanum ; the bark, &c. were continued, and on the fourth day the pain and stricture ceased.

The third and last instance of recovery happened on board the Bedford, and the patient was treated with the warm bath, opium and

camphor, mercurial ointment was also rubbed into the lower jaw. The Doctor observes that Mr. Bassan, Surgeon of the Arrogant, a ship of the line, in the same engagement, mixed Laudanum with the dressings of all the wounds and no locked jaw occurred. Upon the whole it will appear, that our chief reliance for a cure must be placed upon Opium, Æther is an excellent auxiliary, and when the danger is imminent, which it ever is in this disease, a bold practice can alone insure the most distant prospect of conducting the patient through his perilous situation. To attempt to theorize on the various phenomena which are presented to the astonished eye of a spectator, and felt by the patient, would be irrelevant to my present undertaking, more especially as our knowledge of the nerves is so very imperfect.

I have lately experienced very excellent effects from the Tinct. Ferri Muriati in two cases of spasm, namely, a violent spasmodic affec-

tion of the stomach from taking a large draught of cold water; and a general affection in the limbs and body, 15 or 20 drops were given every 10 minutes until the parts were restored to their healthy action.

May not this medicine hereafter be found to have good effects in tetanic affections? It well merits a trial, which I should gladly embrace, were an opportunity to offer.

ON SPHACELUS; OR MORTIFICATION.

THE prosecution of my present pursuit affords me the greatest pleasure, more especially as I consider myself under the blessing of Providence, the author of a discovery which has the power of cutting short and curing this lethiferous disease, the bare name of which when associated with the etymology of the word mors and facio is shocking to humanity.

When the cutis vera and membrana adiposa are only affected, or in other words the common integuments, the complaint is distinguished from Sphacelus by the name of Gangrene.

when the muscles, nerves, tendons, &c. are under the influence of the disease the name of Sphacelus is given to it, and the parts are then said to become sphacelous.

Mortification always has its origin in inflammation, which if not timely subdued completely destroys the organization of the parts, producing either gangrene or sphacelus according to its seat, whether it be superficial or otherwise. After inflammation has run on with uninterrupted violence the symptoms which denote gangrene are an erysipelatous efflorescence of the skin, which assumes a crimson or purple hue, excessively hot to the touch, and exquisitely painful to the patient, having vesicles of different sizes and of a bluish cast interspersed here and there on its surface: there is always more or less of symtomatic fever accompanying these symptoms. In the course of 48 hours the vitality of the parts is totally destroyed, when the pain ceases, and a deadly

livid appearance and coldness succeeds the inflammatory tumult; * the skin in different places feels parched, hard, and like the head of a drum, exhibiting marks of the action of fire; for mortification is certainly a species of combustion, and should not the knowledge of this circumstance put us on our guard, and point out the great impropriety of warm poultices and hot fomentations, during the inflammatory stage; a practice still prevalent, even amongst those, who are deemed adepts in the profession!

On the prevention of Mortification. Though the old adage that it is easier to prevent than cure, be for the most part true; yet we must acknowledge that we now and then meet with cases, in which this maxim is reversed, for as an old and repectable physician observed to me

* The part becomes emphysematous and a putrid gas is evolved.

the other day (Dr. Mackay) nature may be led, but she will not always be driven! In all local inflammations topical remedies are those on which we must chiefly rely; when leeches can be procured they are indispensably necessary, after they have performed their office, cold saturnine applications should be incessantly used, not in the form of poultices for they in a short time accumulate such a degree of heat, that they prove more injurious than beneficial; besides their weight proves a source of irritation, they also exclude the atmospheric air, and deprive the patient of its benefit which we all know is exceedingly useful in small pox and other diseases depending on sthenic action. Then I must again repeat that the most effectual way of refrigerating an inflamed part, is to use linen rags folded up so as to contain a sufficient quantity of the lotion, and on these occasions three or four sets of rags should be provided, in order that when ne set becomes warm, they may be hung

up in a current of air to cool, and the rest used in rotation. By a diligent perseverance on the part of the patient, we are in general either enabled to discuss the swelling and subdue the inflammation, or to prevent them from doing much injury to the parts. In all bad cases the patient's mind should be impressed with a certain degree of fear, otherwise for want of diligence our expectations will be frustrated. General bleeding when the system is much deranged and the patient of a full habit, will be needful, purging with neutral salts is also requisite; however I must remark with regard to phlebotomy, that it requires some degree of prescience and practical acumen to regulate our conduct: for when we are not sure of arresting the progress of the inflammation from the peculiar irritability of the habit and malignity of the case, the consequences may be dreadful, if we reflect on the gleeting and profuse discharge which ensues an extensive sloughing. Opium is very beneficial when it

can be ascertained that the inflammatory action is kept up from irritability, and a strongly marked asthenic diathesis is prevalent, which can be easily discovered, by a knowledge of the patient and his mode of living. Scarification, when leeches cannot be procured will I conceive be useful, yet I must acknowledge that I generally have omitted it, and trusted to the remedies already recommended.

On the cure of Sphacelus. After our attempts at resolution have proved unsuccessful our next endeavours are, 1st. To produce a separation of the dead from the living parts. 2nd. To prevent absorption of putrid virus during the putrefactive process. 3rd. To cicatrize the wound and support the strength of the patient. In order to produce a separation of the dead from the living parts suppuration is requisite, which we effect by fomentations and poultices, the former are usually made of the leaves of Abrotanum, Absinthium, Chamœmelum, which

from their bitter and antiseptic qualities, are supposed to be the fittest for this purpose: flannels squeezed out of a strong decoction, are applied as warm as the patient can bear them. The process of fomentation being finished, which should last for fifteen or twenty minutes, warm and thick cataplasms are afterwards laid over the sphacelated part, the common bread and milk poultice covered with yeast is often used: to hasten the separation, incisions are made upon the surface of the mortified parts, pouring into them, warm, stimulant and spirituous applications, such as Sp^{t}. Vini Camphoratus, Sp^{t}. Terebinthinæ, &c. During the use of the above remedies, large quantities of bark in substance have hitherto been administered, from an erroneous notion that this drug had a peculiar and specific effect in arresting the progress of, and curing sphacelus, which I shall soon prove to be an opinion founded on error, and supported merely from *arbitrary custom* and *prejudice*. The part should be well

washed at each dressing, which must be renewed at least four times in the 24 hours; for, notwithstanding the utmost cleanliness, in a warm season of the year, or in a tropical clime, the fætor and stench issuing from it, is intolerable. A portion of the mortified part should be cut away at every dressing, as much as can be removed, after which Cinchona and spirituous medicaments have been spread upon the surface of the poultice or sprinkled over the part, and yet strange to tell all these means have not been sufficient to prevent the effects of absorption, or to destroy the fætor, which Kali Nitratum or Nitre most indubitably does, and which I have styled a sovereign remedy, and the only effectual one, which has hitherto been discovered. Though there is no possibility of causing a spontaneous separation to take place without the aid of warmth, there is reason to suppose that it has always added to the malignity of the disorder, by the well-known property which it possesses of exciting

fermentation, and which necessarily keeps up and augments the putrefactive process; indeed much philosophical sapience is not requisite to convince any one of the truth of this: therefore as Nitre counteracts the effects of heat as far as it is conducive to putrefaction by rendering the dead mass insusceptible of its baneful influence, and by correcting it and entirely subduing it when it has already taken place, the fomentations and poultices can now be most advantageously employed. The separation will be accelerated by a generous stimulating diet, consisting of strong beef soups and jellies, a moderate allowance of generous port wine, good mild ale or porter should be drank, and the patient's spirits kept up by the most positive assurances of a happy termination to his sufferings; for which purpose the company and cheerful conversation of his friends and acquaintances, will now be very conducive. Bark given in substance and in the quantities recommended by men whose practice and experience in such cases,

one would suppose were not greater than their penetration, I know from the most correct and sure observation, to be productive of the most calamitous consequences, which I shall soon particularize. When the appetite is good a nutritious and easily digested diet, will, without the aid of medicine answer every purpose. The Decoctum Cinchonæ agreeably acidulated with the Elixir of Vitriol, may be advantageously employed. How often do medical men through a blind and slavish acquiescence to imperious custom, defeat the salutary, though slow and sure operations of nature? The second indication for the prevention of the absorption of virus, during the putrefactive process is fulfilled by cleanliness from frequent ablution, and sprinkling finely pulverized Nitre over the part which should be scarified either superficially or deeply according to the judgment of the surgeon, or depth of the disease. And here I must remark that the evil so much dreaded formerly, of wounding the parts underneath possessed of

vitality, and thereby exciting absorption with all its train of calamitous consequences, need now no longer be feared, as Nitre neutralizes and renders innoxious the deadly poison.

The third indication, for cicatrizing the wound, and supporting the strength of the patient, is answered by a full diet of nutrientia and such modes of dressing as are found to be most effectual. When all fætor is destroyed, and danger of absorption obviated by the Nitre, I find an onion poultice the most effectual for removing the slough, after which a milder one composed of boiled carrots, may be applied until the face of the sore is completely covered with florid, healthy granulations, then, a lint dressing thinly besmeared with cerate or any mild new made ointment, should be used until nature as far as lies in her power, restores lost substance. Whenever the granulations bleed, and look loose and flabby,

strips of adhesive plaster with tow, or soft linen compresses are to be applied and secured by a calico roller, in a firm equable manner. Such is the treatment which I have found to answer my most ardent expectations, and which the following narrative will exemplify and fully elucidate.

The first time I had recourse to Nitre as a remedy for Sphacelus, (which may justly be termed a sovereign one) was whilst I was surgeon of His Majesty's ship St. George; it was applied to a man's foot, which was wounded with a cannon-shot in an action off Cadiz; a mortification took place soon after the accident, owing to the irritation of splinters or spicula impacted in the tendinous and nervous parts (so small as not to be discovered at first) and the destruction of the soft parts. The usual remedies were had recourse to, such as washing the mortified parts with Sp^{t}. Terebinthinæ, Vini, &c. vinegar and fomentations of

bark, but without perceiving the smallest benefit resulting from their application. The fætor emanating from the wound which was black and cadaverous, was not at all corrected, nor was any separation of the sphacelated parts perceptible; on the contrary the disease was spreading all over the foot. In this dilemma revolving in my mind the various antiseptics which the materia medica afforded, I luckily thought of Nitre and began to use it very finely pulverized in large quantities, sprinkling it all over the wound, covering it so perfectly as to make some degree of pressure without soiling my fingers, for the purpose of promoting its union with the mortified parts; the wound was dressed three times a day, as the climate was warm, and the danger from absorption consequently great. In the course of 12 hours the disagreeable stench issuing from the wound, which before was so extremely offensive as to make the nurses sick, was now quite gone, the extent of the mortification was soon dis-

covered by a line of separation surrounding the wound. Here the beneficial effects of Nitre were very evident, both as far as related to its antiseptic, as well as stimulant power; the former in subduing putrefaction, the latter by restoring energy and activity to the living sub-latent parts, sufficient to enable them to throw off the causa nocens.

It may seem unnecessary to mention that as much of the mortified parts as could be removed by the assistance of the scissars and forceps were taken away at each dressing, and the wound well washed sometimes with vinegar, at other times with Decoct. Cinchonæ.

By perseverance and strict attention to the above remedies, particularly the Nitre (though the patient was reduced to the lowest ebb of *human misery* which was sufficiently evinced by symptoms the most distressing and alarming, such as yellowness of the skin, a black furred tongue,

tetanus, and some degree of locked jaw, extreme debility, quick and fluttering pulse,) he was restored to health contrary to the expectations of all who saw him.

I found in this case as I have done in many others the exhibition of bark in substance do great mischief, though not given to near the extent recommended by medical writers. One would imagine these authors were afraid of deviating from the paths of their predecessors, when they are found slavishly subscribing to their rules, whilst the conviction of their own experience should convince them of the folly and even criminality of recommending medicines, which cannot boast of that consequence or efficacy, which they have laboured to bestow upon them.

It generally happens as it did in this instance, that though the patient previously to its administration, may have some appetite, it soon

fails and the space of a few hours entirely deprives him of all inclination to eat, his fever increases, and he loaths every thing offered to him in the shape of food.

This is not the worst consequence, the medicine at length proves so nauseating and disgusting, that the stomach as if conscious of the violence done to it, arms itself with the resolution of rejecting this inhospitable and noxious tenant. Such is the method employed by the vis medicatrix naturæ (if there be such a power) to rid herself of matter so heterogeneous and offensive to this delicate organ, the primum mobile of the system.

Nor can it be wondered at, that this should happen, when you reflect on the indigestible nature of bark, however finely it may be pulverized.

The human stomach is not like that of the

Ostrich, it will not digest iron; and it does not require much penetration to discover, that the digestive faculties of this noble organ, are greatly impaired by disease, Then how can it be supposed that a substance which with the greatest propriety may be termed foreign, should not prove injurious, when other things, mild and congenial to it in a healthy state, are now offensive? It is not my wish to have wrong inferences deduced from these observations, I have said enough to convince that I am inimical to the exhibition of bark in substance, yet I would not have it imagined that it cannot be employed with advantage in any form; indeed I think far otherwise, for I am persuaded that it is of great service when given in decoction, for then you can augment or diminish its strength ad libitum, without clogging up the stomach with a heterogeneous mass of indigestible matter; an advantage which will appear to every unprejudiced mind, of the greatest importance, as far as relates to

the welfare of the patient and success of the surgeon, whose anxiety must ever be commensurate with the danger and difficulty of the case.

During the peace subsequent to the treaty of Amiens, whilst I was in private practice, I had the care of two very bad cases of Sphacelus which I treated in the manner already mentioned, with the same success, and the same corroborating proofs of the amazing efficacy of Nitre. The first case was that of a female who had an ulcer on one of her legs, which from want of medical aid and other comforts, degenerated into a state of sphacelus. The other was the worst, and occupied a space of 9 inches on the external part of the forearm and hand, the integuments, fascia, and part of the muscles were completely destroyed, as well as the extensor mēdii digiti tendon, and though the mortification was so very extensive, the repeated application of powdered Nitre pre-

vented the mass of humours from being corrupted by the absorption of putrid virus.

It appeared very evident at every dressing, that it had perfect command over this disease, by entirely subduing the cadaverous fætor which always exhales from mortified parts. It is worthy of remark that the patient's stomach was very little affected, he was enabled to take in a sufficient quantity of nutriment, which would not have been the case, if absorption had taken place, or his stomach had been loaded *with huge doses of bark.* He took Decoct. Cinchonæ and was allowed strong beef soup, with a liberal quantity of port wine and mild ale.

I the other day in a conversation with a physician in London of great eminence, respecting the administration of bark in cases of sphacelus, was happy to find his sentiments exactly in unison with my own ; and he, was

through fatal experience thoroughly convinced of the folly of the fashionable practice of throwing in large quantities of bark in substance. For he was visiting a patient affected with mortification in conjunction with a surgeon, who was of opinion that too much of this drug could not be given, though the patient's appetite was already destroyed by its effects and those of the disease; yet my friend though he represented to his coadjutor, his opinion of the impropriety of continuing the bark in substance, remained passive, not wishing to stem the torrent of popular prejudice, or take the power out of the surgeon's hands, when he conceived the case to be more closely affianced to surgery, than physic. I need hardly remark that the case terminated fatally. My patient's complaint arose from a small pimple on his hand, which became so troublesome that he was induced to apply to a famous empiric, whose skill was so perfectly baffled in this case, that he was constrained to acknow-

ledge from the black, blistered, swelled, and frightful appearance which the patient's hand and arm exhibited, that the case required more of the acumen chirurgicum than he could boast of, and recommended his poor suffering deluded patient to apply for further advice, as mortification had already taken place. Nor was it surprising considering the treatment which had been adopted, white lily root, and a variety of acrid substances were applied to assuage a most active inflammation.

It has lately been ascertained that the nitrous acid gas possesses the power of destroying contagion, on which account Government supplies the navy with materials and utensils necessary for the purpose of fumigation,

It has often happened that malignant ulcers exposed to the action of the fumes have been converted into a mild state, and easily cured, yet having a knowledge of these circumstances,

I must confess that I was not induced to use this remedy from any analogical inference striking my mind; but from the simple idea after a fruitless struggle to subdue the fætor issuing from a sphacelous foot, that as Nitre was found to preserve animal substances from putrefaction, it might also arrest its progress when commenced; and such has been invariably the result, in cases which have come under my care. Some of my medical brethren in the navy have lately informed me, that they experienced the same salutary effects from its use in cases that occurred at naval hospitals, which I shall forbear to particularize and shall content myself by noticing part of Mr. Simpson's letter of Skipton, in the fourth number of the 13th vol. page 324 of the Medical Journal.

" Gentlemen,

I am induced to request you will allow me, through the medium of your widely extended and truly valuable publication,

to return my sincere thanks to Mr. Cuming, for his recommendation of *nitre*, Medical and Physical Journal for April and December 1804, in cases of sphacelus. I have recently had a case of that description, where every effort to relieve the patient proved fruitless; until I resolved upon the application of nitre, in which I was seconded by my very respectable and ingenious naval friend Mr. Birtwhistle of this place.

Having frequently experienced very good effects from the external application of crude sal ammoniac finely powdered in similar cases, and having previously formed - - - - - - - - of Mr. Cuming from his style of writing which I have repeatedly seen in your Journals, I was led to resolve upon giving a fair trial to nitre. I am happy in having it in my power to say the effect was favourable beyond my most sanguine expectation.

It would be superfluous to trouble you with the minutiæ of the case, suffice it to say the whole class of stimulants and antiseptics were tried internally and externally; notwithstanding, the putrid diathesis increased daily until arrested by this "sovereign remedy." I shall conclude with joining Mr. Cuming in most strenuously recommending this invaluable medicine to the public, as one which I flatter myself will ultimately prove deserving their confidence and attention."

I am, &c.

C. Simpson.

Skipton, Feb. 6th, 1805.

It may not be unprofitable to inquire into the modus operandi of this medicine, which I shall only attempt in a cursory manner, and leave the rest to those who are more fond of speculative researches than I am.

Modern chemists have discovered that nitre is a composition of oxygen and azote; and whatever may be the component parts of animal substances in a state of putrescency, it is certain they contain some part very greedy of oxygen, which is readily imparted by the penetrative and soluble nature of this salt, that seems to neutralize and render the offensive mass perfectly innocuous. Charcoal, which is said to contain a quantity of oxygen, has frequently been applied to mortified parts, but it is probable that it cannot give it out with the same facility as nitre does, on which account it is less efficacious. So that upon the whole it evidently appears, that this remedy is of all others that have yet been discovered, the only one which has the power of preserving the system from being contaminated with the deadly virus of sphacelus, and of fortifying the mind of the patient against the apprehensions of death, which must ever haunt the breast, when the poor wretched sufferer finds

himself surrounded with a horrid stench, such a stench as Philoctetes' wound diffused through the whole Grecian Camp, which was enough to suffocate men of the most robust constitutions. " Je remplissois nuit & jour l'île de mes cris, un sang noir & corrompu, coulant de ma plaie, infectoit l'air, & répandoit dans le camp des Grecs, une puanteur capable de suffoquer les hommes les plus vigoureux. Toute l'armée eut horreur de me voir dans cette extrémité, chacun conclut que c'etoit un supplice qui m'etoit envoyé par les justes dieux."

Telemachus.

May not nitre conjoined with aromatics, hereafter prove beneficial in putrid fevers? Inferences deduced from the above narrations are greatly in favor of the pleasing expectation.

THE END.

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ERRATA.

In Page 18 read, until the increased vascular action is subdued.
Page 42, for frunctusque, read, fructusque.
Page 87, line 17, read, have been protracted.
Page 136, the last line, read, perplexity
Page 9, line 19, for expusitely, read, exquisitely.
Page 11, line 4, for ammonia, read, ammoniæ.
Page 264, for visicles read vesicles, line 18.
Page 289, read, on Scorbutic Ulcers.
Page 19, read, aperient for asperient, last line.

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TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

TABLES

Of the New Names adopted by each College, and of their reference to those formerly in use.

BY

BRABAZON SMITH, M. D.